

EDITION FEES: Borrowing to Learn

CANADA'S

WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

# Maclean's

JUNE 24, 1996

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WEEKLY  
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## Cover

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## Canadian made

Canadians are breathing new life into the art of animation. Software wizards have created a \$150-million industry, while abroad, scores of artists have been working their magic on U.S. hits, including Toy Story, Jurassic Park, The Mask and Hansel and Gretel of Home Alone.



## Features

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## A hot time in town

With Parliament's summer recess approaching, the business of federal politics is anything but finished. At the top of the Liberals' agenda: the possibility of an out-of-court settlement of Brian Mulroney's \$50-million lawsuit against the RCMP and the federal government; and the June 20 to 22 meeting in Ottawa between Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Canada's First Ministers.



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## Borrowing to learn

As tuition fees soar and students scramble for scarce summer jobs, governments and universities are introducing a wide range of aid programs. And under pressure from Ontario, Ottawa is considering a controversial plan to make student borrowing easier.



COVER: PHOTOS: (TOP) BOB D'AMICO; (BOTTOM) JEFFREY M. HARRIS

# From The Editor

## What to do about Quebec?



**N**orfolk Island Premier Denis Tobin recalls the last few hours of referendum night in October with a shudder. He was sitting in a television studio in Montreal and, with a ball in the pit of the gut, watched "the little computer generated box on the screen" as the percentages bounced back and forth. "Fifty-one percent started looking pretty damn good at a certain point in the evening," he recalled during a conversation last week. But then he added, "I think we've forgotten the experience."

What Canadians have forgotten is the shock that followed their belated recognition in the final weeks of the campaign that the country was slipping away. And they have forgotten their emotional appeal to Quebecers. As Tobin puts it, "Canadians said, 'Hiding in, we are going to respond and we are going to find ways to acknowledge the reality of this country, including the reality of Quebec.'"

The leaders of the federal, provincial and territorial governments have an opportunity to start this process when they sit down to gather this week in Ottawa. Quietly apart from the formal agenda, the most important thing about the meeting is for the First Ministers to make progress on the national unity issue. It is a top issue and it will not go away simply because the leaders choose to ignore it.

The problems, of course, as what to do. The leaders at short notice must face Quebecers hardened, especially across the West. And, as Tobin concludes, "there is nothing we can say to Lucien Bouchard short of, 'Good morning, Mr. President,' that will please him." Most disheartening, he adds, "you're beginning to hear a notion out of Ottawa that essentially says, 'If you put a dollar in, you expect to get a dollar

out.' And if that's the basis of the country, then I'm afraid we're talking the language of Lucien Bouchard."

Tobin believes he and his colleagues have got to start talking the language of accommodation. "I am one who believes that the importance of provincial governments or provinces is directly proportionate to how many powers you strip away from the national government," he said over breakfast in Toronto. "The tragedy in Canada is that we have had, from the beginning of time, provincial governments, provincial politicians, who made careers out of being a promoter's David against Ottawa's Goliath. It's sad-destroying. It's cheap applause. It's playing to people's worst biases and fears about their country."

What is the way out? Tobin recognizes that Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Bouchard are locked in a struggle for the hearts and minds of Quebecers. "What's wrong with the notion that maybe an initiative could come from a province at this stage?" he asks. "Those of us sitting on the sidelines, treating this as a spectator sport, should get out at the stands and get down into the field and try to contribute something, and try to figure out whose side we are on."

Tobin believes that Alberta Premier Ralph Klein, as chairman of this summer's annual premiers conference, has a vital role to play. He told him so earlier last week when he met up with Klein during a stop in Alberta. And what was Klein's response? He said, "Very minor." Then he looked down at his cowboy boots and smiled and said, "I'll think about it."



Tobin: no appeal to Ralph Klein to take a stand

*Robert F. Jones*

## Newsroom Notes:

### The entertainment beat

**T**his week's cover package, overseen by Entertainment Editor Patricia Wilchy, with Associate Entertainment Editor Doree Turbide, details the global success that Canadians are enjoying in film and computer animation. To report the story, Research Bureau Chief Chris West travelled to Toronto, Los Angeles and San Francisco. The cover story is part of the magazine's attempt to



Wilchy (left), Turbide: special focus

focus on subjects of special interest to Canadians. "Naturally, we also pay attention to the big books, movies and music from elsewhere in the world," says Wilchy. "But we see a special role for Maclean's in putting the spotlight on Canadian culture and entertainment."

### Next week

**F**or several months, Maclean's reporters and editors have been gathering stories and information about individuals who are making a difference with innovative efforts and programs in their own communities. The special report on local heroes will appear in the July 1 issue, on sale on June 24.

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Make a simple coulis by melting your favourite jam and pool in individual dishes, setting aside a small amount for garnish. Cut a frozen

SARA LEE pound cake into wedges; stand each wedge in the sauce and

drizzle with the remaining coulis. Surround with

fresh berries. Mix 1 cup

(250ml) of yogurt or

sour cream with

1/2 teaspoon (12ml)

of frozen

concentrated orange

juice and spoon

over berries.

Garnish with

grated citrus

rind (optional).

When your guests ask who made this delicious dessert, look them straight in the eye and say "Me!"

**Me & Sam**



An American View



## Fred Bruning Progress is a much overrated idea

Added to the smacks and minor injuries attending life in late-century America the practice known as "dialing," a low-down and intrusive racket run by certain long-distance telephone companies. These outfits—some small and obscure, others large and well-known—use deceptive methods and outright fraud to substitute themselves for the carriers in legitimate calls by consumers. That's right. They alter service without our knowledge. Brrrrr, shiver, shiver! It's the way we do business in the '90s.

Local phone companies, which serve as bill collectors for long-distance firms, say they cannot, or will not, verify charge orders. Some city attorneys claim the customer has authorized a switch in service and the changeover is executed, no questions asked. So far, U.S. authorities do not require local phone people to check for authenticity—but it's subtle to have government off our backs—and only when customers spot the signs of unusual or long-distance charges on their bills, or more likely, hefty increases in the cost of service, is the scam finally revealed.

At that point, an unsuspecting customer may contact local phone officials—no easy trick since circuits often are busy and service runs are slower. "Auditors" often pursue to demand why the price of his account was inflated? Paraphrasing, it will be explained that the world is complicated in these days of electronic communication—the requisite switchover is accomplished by computers in close cooperation with one another, you understand—and that the local phone company regrets any inconvenience but, of course, denies all responsibility. The agent will be happy to return the customer to his original long-distance carrier—the one he thought he had all along—and impose a "franchise" on the account to protect against future shenanigans. Well there be anything else? If not, good luck, sir, and have a really nice day.

Last year, the Federal Communications Commission received more than 10,000 complaints from victimized long-distance customers. At the state level, investigators in several venues are bearing down on scam artists. But while the licenses of some rogue carriers have been suspended, others continue to operate. Sooner or later they will be nailed by prosecutors—dead end in fraud. They all—but the rascals will have gained millions at the expense of unknowing customers. And what can the customer do? Not much more than shake his head and acknowledge that the perils of a high-tech society are pervasive and abundant, and that progress is a relative term, at best.

It's enough to make one recall those blisful days of rotary phones and commercial switchboards—the richly sound of the

advancing dial and, tick-tick-tick, its counterclockwise retreat, operators calmly crisscrossing wires and reeling their lines with wind-erased precision. "Thank you. Just a moment, please. Excuse me. You are no longer busy. I've put you through now." What joy in that lovely buzz! No recorded messages, electronic menus or digital wordery, but only human voices. The heart fairly breaks.

Everything was working well until research and development proclaimed telephone dialling too tedious a chore for Americans—a kind of cheating that would least ultimately to battery-powered pager rolls and time-release room deodorizers—and proceeded to hatch touch-tone calling. No longer would people have to exhaust themselves by laboring with fast consumerist retail dial. Now, they could merely push a few buttons, listen to a small symphony of happy-sounding beeps, and, in a flash, the job would be done! It was a breakthrough in time-release technology, all right. But not for long.

What lush touch-tone wrought? It wasn't long before other visionaries discovered that the musical chirping of the new phones could allow for even more remarkable conveniences. Sure, if you could design a system that somehow reacted to those cheery signals you'd really have something. You could wire up a recorded alarm that told people to park certain vehicles in particular situations and then—great stuff!—have an other recording answer the consumer's queries. The advantages were clear: The customer would get his answer quickly, and the boss could dump those old noisy telephone operators and get a bonus for cutting costs. Now we were cooking.

The story doesn't end quite so joyfully, as most everyone knows. Thinking has become an adventure in counterintelligence and guerrilla warfare. Callers can go days without hearing the sound of a human voice. Everything takes longer. You want to make a hotel reservation, reach your cousin in hospital, reserve ball seats. A couple of seats for the ball game. And out when the next train leaves for Speedy, get word on your wife's fight from the coast? You'd do better writing a letter.

Once efficient, simple and reliable, telephone service has become none of the above. The device, itself, is still as much a miracle as when Alexander Graham Bell first rang up in 1876, but the electronic support system is a mess. You often, the human element is out of the loop and that means trouble.

In an era of wacky corporate downsizing, not only long-distance customers get slaved. Everyone takes its lumps. The policy is obvious and undisputed. Because the people living in technology know that things are working beautifully even when they're not. If the customer gripes, it's the breaks. Suggest he push another button to make a complaint. Which button doesn't really matter. All operators are busy. All representatives are occupied. No one is listening. Have a nice day.

Fred Bruning is a writer with Newsday in New York.

# Opening Notes

Edited by TAMI FROSTWELL

## Patriotism and the home of a master

Earlier Groves was the first to add the house to the recently purchased in downtown Quebec City for almost \$250,000 (up had shape. But with financial and technical assistance from the Quebec government—and a desire to grow that French- and English-speaking Canadian families live and work together—Groves is now the 150-year-old landmark, once the home of the renowned 19th-century painter Casimir Krohnoff. "It's quite an undertaking, to say the least," said Groves, who is retiring from her job as a high-school English teacher in Toronto. After the Oct. 30 referendum, Groves revisited Quebec City, where she had lived for two years in the 1970s. She agreed to pay \$80,000 for the house,



Allegory's The MacKenzie family (1853): An abandoned Quebec City house (left) restored by a renovation

which had been vacant for 20 years, and to spend another \$150,000 on renovations. Quebec City council and the Quebec ministry of culture looked in another \$300,000. Groves says she and her husband, Kent, plan to make Krohnoff's old house their retirement home where the renovations are finished sometime in the fall. Says Groves: "In many ways this project is a personal desire to show my passionate concern for Canada." From Toronto with love



## Jerry Seinfeld says goodbye

As the *Seinfeld* show grew into one of the top-rated sitcoms in television history, one of the creative forces behind it was Toronto-born comedian Marjorie Gross. Gross, who had worked as a stand-up comic and, later, as a writer for *Nightclub*

and *AM* added her own humorous grace notes to her role as producer Shirlene, with ovarian cancer. Gross, 60, died on June 7 in Los Angeles. At her funeral in Toronto last week, her brother, Jonathan, recalled how Gross had tried to hold back, without Sharon Stone, had tried to cheer her up by bringing "about a dozen Buddhist monks to her hospital room to cheer for

her." Gross promptly ordered them out. But Jerry Seinfeld was more successful. Despite what Jonathan Gross called the star's "problem in dealing with death," Seinfeld was able to spend time with his sister, singing some of her favorite old Beatles songs, including *All You Need Is Love* and *Magnolia*. Myer's Toronto. At the funeral and goodbye to Marjorie Gross with her brother, Jonathan, and a Long and Winding Road

## Advice from a cancer expert

From remarks by Dr. Steven Lipp, a renowned U.S. surgeon, breast cancer activist and author of the best-selling *Dr. Steven Lipp's Breast Book*, at the International Women's Health Conference in Toronto last week:

- We've got all hung up on this idea of early detection. But we really have to go beyond that to prevent cancer in the first place.
- I don't know why breast cancer

is more common among high socioeconomic women. Something I think it's the single most important thing on the credit cards.

- We all have to be our own advocate. You can't trust the medical profession. If you use 180 patients a week, you don't have time to read articles. You know where most doctors get their information? From drug salesmen.
- The most important thing we can do for women's health is to do it.

crease time devoted to exercise for girls in high school. (Seinfeld's exercise and a diet high in vegetables)

## A surprise send-off

Together Liberal stalwarts Allan Rock and North Davy have more than 70 years' experience in the public eye. With both of them leaving office at the end of the month, even old-timers shed a tear as they said goodbye at a surprise retirement dinner on Parliament Hill last week. First elected as an MP in 1959, the 75-year-old MacKenzie held nine cabinet posts—more than anyone in Canadian history—before becoming a senator in 1994. The 70-year-old



MacKenzie and Davy, songs and fings

Davy, appointed to the Senate in 1966, carried his nickname "The Kestrel" for his uncanny political instincts. Many of the 250 guests choked up when a bopper played a duet for MacKenzie, a Nova Scotian, and singer Catherine McKinnon, a longtime friend of Davy's, serenaded him with *I've Got a Crush on You*. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien presented the pair with flags that had flown atop the Peace Tower. "At the end of the evening there wasn't a dry eye in the house," said Senator Jerry Goldstein, who organized the party. "These two are masters of the art of politics." Past masters.

## BEST-SELLERS

### FICITION

1. *The Runaway Jung*, Jim Collins (1)
2. *The North Atlantic*, James Joyce (1)
3. *The Fourth Deadly Sin*, Michael Crichton (1)
4. *Prisoners from the Sea*, Douglas Coupland (1)
5. *Full on Four Seasons*, Ann-Marie MacDonald (1)
6. *The Colours of the Wind*, Michael Ondaatje (1)
7. *Small Town*, A. J. Ayer (1)
8. *The God for Justice by Lightning*, Carl Hiaasen (1)
9. *November Column*, A. J. Ayer (1)
10. *The Woman Who Walked into Doors*, Brenda Wine (1)

### NONFICTION

1. *Howe, David & John*, David (1)
2. *Red and Blue*, Joe (1)
3. *Simple Abundance*, David (1)
4. *Red and Blue*, Joe (1)
5. *The Curious Incident*, Michael (1)
6. *Emotional Intelligence*, Daniel (1)
7. *Emotional Intelligence*, Daniel (1)
8. *The Good Society*, John (1)
9. *The Good Society*, John (1)
10. *The Good Society*, John (1)

1. *Prisoners from the Sea*, Douglas Coupland







## Painful history

Canadian author Janice Galloway's new novel *The Girl on the Train* is a powerful exploration of the human mind and the power of memory. The novel is a psychological thriller that explores the complexities of the human mind and the power of memory. The novel is a psychological thriller that explores the complexities of the human mind and the power of memory.

## Now moving into fifth place: E.H.R.

Queen Elizabeth II, who succeeded her father, King George VI, on Feb. 6, 1952, passed a milestone last week, becoming the fifth longest-reigning monarch in the 1,200-year history of the English throne—passing her namesake Elizabeth I on June 12 at 44 years, 126 days. Both queens died on the throne at age 70. The current monarch, who is 70, will have to reign for another 18 years, until Sept. 11, 2018, to match Queen Victoria's remarkable reign.

The royal top ten:

					
Victoria 63 years (1837-1901)	George III 59 years (1760-1820)	Henry III 54 years (1216-1272)	Edward III 50 years (1312-1377)	Elizabeth II 64 years (1952-)	Elizabeth I 44 years (1533-1603)

# Passages

**DIED:** Edith Piaf, 78, the "First Lady of Song," after suffering complications from diabetes for several years, at her home in Beverly Hills. Calif. The legendary



competition at New York City's famous Apollo Theater. A 10-time Grammy winner, she recorded more than 250 albums and her biggest hit, *A-Tout-Paris*, which she co-wrote, is in the Grammy Hall of Fame.

**RELINQUISHED:** By Cincinnati Reds owner Marge Schott, 67, day to day control of the National League baseball team until the end of the 1994 season, after pressure from major league baseball officials to resign for offensive remarks about Asians and women's weapons, while offering praise for *Acid Eaters*. Schott, 1995, major-league baseball suspended Schott for eight months and ordered her to undergo counselling for offensive remarks. Recently, she repeated earlier comments that Hitler was "OK at the beginning, but he went too far."

**DIED:** Internist broadcaster and outspoken radio talk-show host Pat Boone, 75, of undisclosed causes, in a Vancouver hospital. Beginning in 1963 with *Boone* on Vancouver's CIOI, and later with *CIOI* in Montreal and CIOI in Vancouver, the gruffly voiced Boone held calls for more than 25 years.

**DIED:** Leukemia victim Peter Jung, 15, whose courage inspired widespread public support, in an Edmonton hospital. When the Alberta government offered him May 17 to fund a \$100,000 experimental treatment offered at a Minnesota hospital, the teenager's high school raised \$125,000. But by then, Jung was too ill to travel for the treatment. At the teenager's request, the money will be donated to children's charities.

**DIED:** Actor Jo Van Fleet, 81, best known for her portrayals of various characters in film, on stage and in television, in a New York City hospital. She won an Academy Award for playing the mother of a *James Dean* character in the classic 1955 movie *East of Eden*.

With his seemingly casual—and often dadgum!—approach to Canada's enduring constitutional woes, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien likes to boast that he reflects the mood of the nation. In a display of considerable arrogance last Thursday, for instance, Chrétien waved off advisors who hovered inquisitively outside his office with briefing books that detailed the hickering and bawling expected at his two-day meeting with Canada's premiers in Ottawa this week. Instead of policy statements about renewed federalism or expert advice on constitutional mishaps, Chrétien preferred to extend a five-minute courtesy visit with Academician Ontario's ailing pitcher for the Montreal Expos, into a half-hour of baseball gossip. Such amiable chatter was both typical and deceptive. Behind the scenes, cabinet ministers and senior officials scrambled to secure the type of deals that Chrétien could showcase as proof that the Liberal government not only has a national unity agenda, but one that will work. The road at the top,

## Mulroney and the premiers dominate the pre-summer agenda

# Hot time in the old town

however, was decidedly serene. "You can tell," said one Chrétien aide, "that it's the end of the season."

As the federal Liberal government prepares to close down Ottawa on June 21 for the traditional three-month summer break, the business of politics is anything but finished. Senior Liberal strategists are weighing the political fallout of an expected out-of-court settlement of more than \$1 billion to end former Conservative prime minister Brian Mulroney's \$500-million libel suit against Ottawa in the Airbus affair. In the midst of the turmoil, the aerial in Ottawa on Thursday of two territorial leaders and 10 provincial premiers, including Quebec's recalcitrant Lucien Bouchard, will likely expose more conflicting interests than good ones in the Liberal plan to remould the economic and social framework of the country.

In fact, two premiers—Bouchard and British Columbia's Glen Clark—have said they would boycott the brief portion of the First Ministers' meeting dealing with the constitutional amending formula, while a third, Alberta's Ralph Klein, has said he won't participate in any private discussion of the matter. Publicly, the three premiers have complained that there is not enough time allotted on the official agenda to the economy and job creation. But privately, even after a series of meetings and telephone conversations, many provincial leaders could agree late last week on few, if any, of the non-constitutional themes on Ottawa's agenda, including the further disavowment of inter-provincial trade barriers, the formation of a national securities commission, and reduced federal spending powers. Broadly, there was one subject that seemed to meet little resistance:

tance a plan to embark on a joint inter-provincial "Open Canada" international trade mission, most likely to South Korea and Taiwan, an early start next January. Said one senior Liberal "Everyone says they want to work together for Canada, but so far no one can get wide practical political interests long enough to do it."

Last week, Chrétien delivered a pragmatic promise to fix the federal system "one problem at a time." And behind the scenes, it appeared that the Liberal government was also trying to solve another problem of its own: how to extract itself from the messy Airbus affair. Justice Minister Allan Rock conceded that federal officials had infrequently met with Mulroney's lawyers to discuss a settlement of the suit launched by the former Tory prime minister last November. Mulroney is seeking \$500 million in damages over RCMP and federal justice department in-lieu-of-bail that he received \$5 million in alleged kickbacks related to the \$1.4-billion purchase by Air Canada of 34 jets from the European Airbus consortium in 1988. But CBC News reported that the former prime minister may be willing to settle out of court in return for an emphatic apology, legal expenses and a restraining order on the clarity of his choice. Some Tory sources said Mulroney's claim that the Liberals had in fact already breached the subject of an out-of-court settlement at the time of Mulroney's pre-trial testimony in Montreal last April—offering, among other things, to "reignite progress" to Mulroney. Senior officials in Chrétien's office would neither confirm nor deny these reports. Indeed, the jockeying on both sides of the



Kind a greater emphasis on jobs



Chrétien weighing the potential fallout of an out-of-court settlement of the Mulroney lawsuit

## BALKING AT TALKING

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's announcement that a portion of the week's First Ministers' meeting would deal with "renewing the federalism" brought a chorus of protest from premiers who said that Ottawa should steer clear of what they called the constitutional quagmire. A sampling:

"We've got to learn from the past. We're not going to solve constitutional questions by a bunch of [premiers] sitting around and talking about it."  
—British Columbia Premier Glen Clark

"If it's a constitutional meeting, I can't go, given my public understanding to not attend any meetings unless they were open and very public."  
—Alberta Premier Ralph Klein

"We don't need to talk about this. We should get on to what Canadians want to talk about—jobs, economy."  
—Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow

"There are people who want to put us around a table to start over the same futile, zombie exercise we have lived through for the past 30 years and which has ended in failure. We no longer intend to fall into those traps."  
—Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard

(dispute to gain political, if not legal, advantage restricted classic means of the long-standing rivalry between the Tories and the Grits. "No one can win in this situation," said Tory Senate Leader John Lynch-Staunton. But Staunton acknowledged that he has been part of the political storm—on May 14, he lost 30 pages of questions to the Liberals concerning the Airbus affair. He conceded, he said, "to annoy the government." Senior Tories privately concede that Mulroney might have garnered more public sympathy if he had sued the government and the RCMP for a nominal sum rather than \$500 million. But, in the event of victory, it would come directly from the pockets of Canadian taxpayers. As for the Liberals, it is in their best interests to end the affair before a federal election—given the deepening perception that they have limited the case. But Rock insisted last week that it would be up to Mulroney, not Ottawa, to propose a settlement—and that an out-of-court agreement would not be an acknowledgment of Mulroney's innocence. Said Rock: "Parties reach an agreement for all kinds of practical reasons."

Even if the government should reach a settlement with Mulroney, other agreements are certainly shaping Ottawa. It is making little progress in discussions with individual provinces to implement measures of the so-called renewal of the federation outlined in last February's throne speech. Meanwhile, the state of the economy, the Prime Minister said, could be discussed over a private dinner at 24 Sussex. Even opening the conference on Thursday. A job creation scheme and internal trade would be covered during a 2½-hour Friday lunch, followed by a review of social policy. Scheduled in between was a perfunctory discussion of the constitutional issues that have been a debated debate about Ottawa's proposals for revamping the federation.

But the provincial leaders clearly have another agenda. Western premiers plan to push for a national debt-reduction strategy that would prevent Ottawa from off-loading its fiscal problems onto other levels of government. Saskatchewan and British Columbia want to protect themselves from any effects of an internal trade proposal to ease labor and trade mobility among provinces. Quebec and British Columbia are adamantly opposed to a national securities commission that would intrude into provincial jurisdiction, while virtually every province west of New Brunswick disagrees with the \$1-billion deal Ottawa made with three Atlantic provinces to harmonize their provincial taxes with the federal Goods and Services Tax.

The problems are also prepared to push Ottawa to the wall over the issue of federal standards in the area of social programs. Most of the provinces want a fundamental shift: a 26-page report, compiled by provincial officials in 1995 and endorsed by all except Quebec, calls for Ottawa to stop imposing rules on provincial health and welfare programs. Many provinces also want Ottawa to relinquish its control over employment insurance. In Quebec, that Ottawa cannot cut back on cash transfers to the provinces and still expect them to live up to rigorous national standards, the premiers want the federal government to give the provinces equal say in determining which services should be covered by medicare—as well as how to penalize provinces that violate the Canada health care framework by enrolling billing. That proposal alone—and the remote possibility that Ottawa might go along with it—will distress many Canadian voters. "This is not what the Liberals' representation of the social safety net. 'This is not what the Liberals'



positioned where they ran the office in 1990," says social activist Minda Barlow, chairwoman of the 60,000-member Ojibweband Council of Canada. "Basically, this is a dramatic retreat from the whole role of governing. We are no longer a nation, we are just an economy."

To some degree, that sentiment echoes Lucien Bouchard's controversial statement on Jan. 27 that Canada is not a real country. Bouchard has not repeatedly repeat such hostile comments at the First Ministers' table this week—but observers are still wondering what its effect on the Quebec premier. Last week, Bouchard accused the Liberal government of severely promoting a union central and form of government in a "dirty self-interest" at a "Troikaist renewal"—an accusation that paralyzed many public policy experts who argue that, if anything, the Liberals of the 2000s are dismantling the very foundation of the social welfare system their predecessors built. The comment underlined the irreparability of the Quebec premier, who has not only hardened separatist attacks on Ottawa, while reuniting more moderate Quebecers who, according to provincial opinion polls, want more emphasis on Quebec's aging economy.

More predictable was Bouchard's refusal to participate in discussions including the Constitution. The Quebec premier plans to walk out of the room during a 20-minute session that was scheduled to satisfy a constitutional requirement that Ottawa and the provinces discuss the preceding agenda before and after April. At one level, the controversy is pure political theatrics—and is critical to both Ottawa and Quebec. Ottawa is owed a full blown constitutional conference next year in the wake-up to a federal election. The Liberal government is now attempting such a meeting that party state puts say could only help the separatist cause by providing it with a target to attack. For Bouchard, the presence of the Constitution on this week's agenda lets him maintain his vow to show any federal attempt to address the province's constitutional demands.

Despite Bouchard's apparent attempts to please all sides, the French leader found himself plunged into the only debate Ottawa expressed formal satisfaction at his remarks, sovereigntyists interpreted this as French support for an independent Quebec after a 100-year vote in a future sovereignty referendum. Neither side was wrong. While Juppé appeared to stand by his government's traditional, stated policy of "non-interference but non-indifference" to the future of Canada and Quebec, he managed

## DIPLOMACY A LA FRANÇAISE

There was a certain predictability in the Parti Québécois government's request to the Canadian military to paint over the maple leaf on the steps carrying French Prime Minister Jean Juppé off a plane upon the arrival in Quebec last week. The military refused. At least, it was no more surprising than the fact that the PQ agreed to have the Canadian flag lowered from its usual position in front of the CP hotel Chateau Frontenac during Juppé's stay and replaced with the French flag. Given the complicated triangle of emotions that exists among Canada, France and Quebec, equally unsurprising was the intense media scrutiny given to every carefully ambiguous phrase

at the very least a nudge and a wink towards sovereignty. "I just assure you that tomorrow, regardless of the choice of your destiny, France will always be at your side," said Juppé. And evoking former French president Charles de Gaulle's "historic visit" in 1957—"when Ottawa sent de Gaulle pecking after his 'Was le Québec liban' statement in Montreal"—he declared that "our country has always been anxious to accompany Québec on its path and it does so by scrupulously respecting your sovereignty, because it is you who clearly hold your destiny in your hands."

While Juppé's visit was widely intended to boost trade relations between France and, in particular, Quebec, it was also a nod to Quebec's separatist leaders, that topic was often pushed aside by the media's traditional preoccupation with the sovereignty issue. "You appear quite disconnected," Juppé snapped to reporters at one point during a Montreal news conference. "What, do you want me to interfere in things that concern you?" Some Canadian polemicists clearly thought that line had already been crossed. Before MP Rob Melillo said that Canadians deserved an apology for Juppé's suggestion that France would support Quebec if it chooses to secede. But Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy said that France has no interest in interfering, and added that Juppé made it clear that "involvement with Canada are proceeding well."

The intense scrutiny, meanwhile, clearly had an effect. "I must say, unfortunately," Juppé was heard saying after the heated Montreal news conference. Montreal-area Liberal MP Clifford Lincoln says that Juppé has no one to blame but himself. "The trouble with all French leaders is that they are too polite by half," Lincoln said. "You can't just play both sides against the middle all the time." Perhaps. But when it comes to Canada and Quebec, it seems, French politicians always try



Crawford being led into court. "They caught me dead. I killed them."

## CANADA

### Saskatoon's Bernardo

I was a grisly discovery—and one that quickly led to speculation, that a serial killer was on the loose. In October, 1994, a deer hunter stumbled upon a human skull in the ditch back near the Moose Lake Golf Course, 10 km southwest of Saskatoon. Police later recovered three sets of female skeletal remains at the site, including bones that had been weathered over the area by dogs and coyotes. Using dental records, the three were identified as Eva Tapscott, 30, Canada Waterbury, 22, and Shelley Napope, 18, all of them natives who were well-known in Saskatoon's native Indian community and who had gone missing two years earlier. Last last month, John Martin Crawford, 34, of Saskatoon, was forced guilty of three counts of murder and handed a 10-year life sentence after a jury heard a searingly charged conversation in which Crawford admitted to picking the women up at different points in 1992 and later dumping their bodies at the same site. "They made me mad," Crawford told a police informant. "I killed them."

Following the sentencing, prosecutor Terry Hines told reporters that the verdict showed that the justice system can work for native people. "I would hope that it conveys a message that there's no segment of society that we're going to abandon," said Hines. "These women who are so vulnerable are not out there as far game for whatever type of predator might want to go after them." But the victims' families and

local native leaders, while welcoming the verdict, tended to view it as simply the latest chapter in a story that sadly shows no signs of ending. There are dozens of active young native women who have gone missing throughout Western Canada in recent years, including some who are suspected to have met with foul play in Saskatoon, police insist. Martin's best work that they are continuing to investigate several such missing-person cases. "I have a gut feeling," says Sgt. Colin Crowder, head of the RCMP's major crime unit in Saskatoon, "that he [Crawford] may have killed others in this area."

At the same time, some observers expressed dismay at the paucity of media coverage given to the Saskatchewan serial murder case, suggesting that it is neither case against Crawford—or anyone else, for that matter.

The case has a very little media about how Crawford conducted the 1994 murders, though it was revealed that he raped and repeatedly stabbed his teenage Napope before dumping her mangled remains in the woods. That pattern of brutal behavior was, doubtless, not unique to the convicted man. "What you did," he told Crawford, "reminds me of a wild animal, a predator. You should never be allowed to leave prison."

after they were white," added Chief Blake Ford, head of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations. "You would think this case would have generated as much interest as other ones, like the Paul Bernardo case. This one was as big as any to me."

That latter point, at least, appeared to be shared by the presiding judge in the Crawford case, Justice David Wright of the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench. After the jury found Crawford guilty of the second of three degrees murder and two counts of second-degree murder, Wright imposed the maximum limit of 25 years without chance of parole in all three cases. "I would make it longer if I was brutal," declared Wright. Addressing the short-

stray Crawford directly, Wright added that "you seemed determined to remove every vestige of humanity from these women..." You have shown no remorse, no regrets. This is one of the most disturbing cases I have ever seen."

In the court case, Crawford, 34, has a long history of violence, drug abuse and preying on young native women. In 1980, at the age of 19, he was charged with the murder of Mary Jane Serlous, a 35-year-old aboriginal woman whose badly beaten and naked body was found under a cave behind an old Indian in Lebelle, Alta. Crawford agreed to plead guilty to manslaughter in exchange for a 10-year sentence. Released from prison in 1988, he drifted back to Saskatoon to live with his mother—and soon ran afoul of the law again. In 1990, he was charged with raping another native woman, Janet Sylvestre, but the charges were stayed when Sylvestre failed to show up for court. In October, 1994—just as the other three charges were being discovered—Sylvestre's naked body was found with a placid bag over her head, in a cluster of bushes 15 km west of Saskatoon. Police say she was asphyxiated, but add that, so far, they have been unable to build a murder case against Crawford—or anyone else, for that matter.

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BRIAN HINGMAN with  
MARKEN GOSWAMI in Saskatoon

# Crisis in the Sûreté

Can Quebec's police clean up their image?

For a brief moment, as the four provincial police officers stood in Room 511 of Montreal's courthouse on June 9 waiting for the jury to announce its verdict, the drama of their case seemed focused solely on this judgment, guilty or not guilty. But as it turned out, the acquittal of Sûreté du Québec investigators Lucien Landry, 42, Pierre Ducloux, 48, René Falaré, 30, and Michel Pitié, 34, on charges of perjury, obstructing justice and fabricating evidence related to a high-profile drug case, did little to allay the storm of controversy that had been swirling around the beleaguered provincial police force for months. Even before the jury had completed its deliberations, an internal police report had surfaced stating that the officers who had investigated the four accused had themselves been subjected to threats from senior officials. By week's end, Quebec's public security minister, Robert Perreault, and SQ director Serge Barbeau had responded with a series of measures intended to restore public

trust in the force, including the appointment of Quebec Court Judge Jean-Pierre Boivin as head of an external inquiry as to the way that the SQ police (its own members "This commissioner has all the power he needs to shed light on this," Perreault told reporters, "and the director of the Sûreté du Québec has assured him of his co-operation").

The acquittal of the four officers marked the culmination of a two-year chain of events that came to be known as the "Matricola affair." It began in May, 1994, when the SQ seized three crates containing 35 tons of hashish in the Port of Montreal. The seizure resulted in the arrests of two Montreal brothers, Gerald and Richard Matricola, and five other men, on charges of conspiracy to import hashish. Among the key pieces of evidence were four bills of lading—documents that allowed the group to take pos-



Barbeau: an erosion of trust and a severely tarnished reputation

sessions of the cargo in the crates. According to the SQ, the bills had been issued during a raid at the maritime salvage business of William Bédages, one of the accused. After an eight-month investigation, however, the defense team presented evidence that the bills had been issued previously to SQ headquarters from a Canada

Customs office at the Port of Montreal.

Last June, the Quebec Court judge presiding over the case staged the proceedings, declaring that the bills had been planted by the police and that "irrefutable evidence" by the SQ had contaminated the entire case. The ruling prompted the police to severely criticize Serge Barbeau to order an internal police investigation into the allegations of evidence tampering. By last October, Landry, Ducloux, Falaré and Pitié—who participated in the Matricola investigation—had been suspended and charged. Their trial, which began on March 25, provided another space of bad publicity for the police force, especially when two other SQ officers admitted to having prepared themselves over the evidence-gathering allegations.

One day after the SQ officers were acquitted, a Crown prosecutor asked for a postponement in another Montreal drug case that had been investigated by three of the four accused. The postponement was denied and the prosecutor dropped drug trafficking and conspiracy charges against one Montreal man. According to Université de Montréal criminologist Jean-Paul Boivin, that may not be the last time the Matricola affair casts a shadow over the administration of justice in the province. "The SQ has lost a part of its credibility with the judicial system," says Boivin, adding that, as a result, more charges in cases investigated by the SQ may be dropped.

In addition to the inquiry by Justice Boivin, the SQ and the province will attempt to bolster confidence in the force by spending an extra \$500,000 for training of internal investigators, and adding a new department of professional ethics. As well, SQ director Barbeau announced last week that he was transferring two of his most senior officers—assistant director general André Drape and Insp. Michel Arcaut—to administrative duties pending a review into allegations in an internal SQ report that said that, during a party last August, the two men tried to intimidate junior officers who were probing allegations of wrongdoing against their colleagues. Barbeau stressed that he did not believe those allegations to be true, but said that the police needed to be satisfied that they were being investigated thoroughly.

Brodeur, who set up a commission that investigated the Montreal police department after a controversial shooting of a black man in 1990, suggests public confidence would be better served by a general inquiry into how the Sûreté conducts its investigations, not just a look into how it polices its own members. "The measures that have been taken are essentially designed to quiet public opinion," he says. "But unless we have a public inquiry into the entire system that is in place and not just into actions taken by individuals, the SQ will not succeed in recovering its credibility."

LEE WARDEN is in Montreal.

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LEE WARDEN is in Montreal.

# Holding the world on a leash

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

George Harris Hees, who died last week at 85, was the last Canadian politician to treat his chosen occupation as a fun gig.

And it was fun for this unusual hawk (110 lb., six feet, three inches) of a man who gave away and wore in every day, as if each were his final one on earth. He was a big man in every way: his smile the radiance of a searchlight, his large frame planted on the ground with a permanent back-wind lean, as if he were holding the world on a leash. (The fact that his contemporaries were always flustered with the glow of good health wasn't an accident; he deliberately bought shirts with twilight collars, so that his face appeared to be enthusiastically bursting out of his clothes.)

"Georgie Hees," as his detractors called him, brought gusto to the business of government. He was master of the Big Hello and loved partying and physical contact in all forms. From the time he went into politics, Hees was plagued by charges that he was a mental lightweight, a perpetual playboy. These accusations were more than offset by his zest for life and his determination to succeed at everything he did. He served as an outstanding minister of transport and of trade and commerce under former prime minister John Diefenbaker and distinguished himself in the veterans' affairs portfolio in the Mulroney administration. His secret was that he was the best-prepared minister on any issue that touched his portfolio. While he showed evidence of the embarrasing questions hurled at him in the Commons, Hees's many years in opposition taught him which topics would most likely be raised, and he was always ready "I just happen to have brought my music with me," he would quip, as he leaped out of a smoking suite and landed down just another potentially explosive query.

Part of his natural charm, from having been born into a rich Toronto family, which financed his education at Trinity College, a private boys' school in Port Hope, Ont. He compensated for his failure at high-school football with a grim training schedule that eventually made him a star line backer with the Toronto Argonauts team that won the 1958 Grey Cup.

He had also tested himself by taking up boxing. After being flattened by Canadian heavyweight champion Bill March in a brutal round at Maple Leaf Gardens in 1953, he went on to beat the boxing champion of the British army. Ever afterward, he regarded politics to be boxing. "If you take your eyes off your opponent's gloves for one moment, he'll knock you out—and it's the same thing in politics," he once told me.

He had a good eye, crafting up a brilliant major, but grew so disgusted with the government's handling of overseas trade shortcuts that he ran as an opposition Conservative in 1945. He lost, but was elected five years later and remained in the Commons, with one brief interruption, for the next 30 years. He never did things by halves. In 1958, when a minister of transport, he was supposed to turn the nod for Edmonton's new airport, Hees



Hees in 1988: a determined politician who enjoyed his job.

taught himself how to drive a bulldozer, and while dignitaries watched, efficiently plowed up the first 20 feet of excavation.

He broke with Diefenbaker in 1953 over the Russian nuclear missile controversy and proudly numbered himself among the ministers who rebelled against his leadership. Hees ran a poor berth at the 1957 Tory leadership convention that chose Robert Stouffville. His candidacy was hurt by word of his relationship with Gerda Munnings, the German prostitute who had consorted with several cabinet ministers. (There was a story going round Parliament Hill that Hees, having been shown a blurry photograph of Gerda in the buff, was asked if it looked like her. He inspected the shot for a long moment before replying, "I'm not sure—how can you be so right?" )

After he decided not to contest the 1958 election, Hees was called in by Mulroney, who appointed him as an ambassador or envoy charged with travelling the Third World. Hees was happy, but pointed out that he really preferred to travel with his wife, Miba, the former Mabel Dunlop, whom he had married in 1934. The PM agreed and the order-in-council appointing Hees to his new job was the only one in Canadian history that specifically ordered an ambassador to travel "accompanied by his wife."

Hees was not a political philosopher. Speaking at an Ottawa West Tory gathering during the 1992 election campaign, he spoke as close as he ever did to explaining his theory on how political candidates ought to be chosen. "When we were boys," he confided, "we used to stand on the corner and watch the girls go by. Some girls had it, and some didn't. Now, we could tell just like that which ones had it, and which ones didn't. And that's how you pick candidates—they've got to have it."

George Hees had it in spades. □

Anthony Wilson-Smith

## Backstage Ottawa

### The Liberals' best hope

One of the most widely repeated slogans among political opponents is that opposition parties don't win elections; either, governing parties lose them. The notion is that an election is really a referendum on the government's record, and voters decide whether they are for or against it. But in the next federal election, the Liberals will turn that idea on its head. Rather than base their campaign on their own list of accomplishments—such as they are—they will run against the record of their opposition. In 1993, Jean Chrétien evoked Brian Mulroney's name at every opportunity. The implication was that voters should vote for Chrétien because of who he was not. Now in the combined form of the Reform party and Bloc Québécois, Chrétien faces an opposition that is divided, fractious, riddled with time and occasionally by excrement in its veins.

An election could come as early as this fall: smart money says Canadians will cast their ballots no later than this time next year. When that happens, one message from the Liberals will be to vote for them because, well, they are neither Reform nor the Bloc. That is in keeping with the record of a government whose principal boast could be all the things that it was *not* for Canada. Thanks to Liberal efforts over the past 2½ years, for example, there will eventually be less money available to people seeking unemployment insurance or old age pensions. It will be harder for provinces to maintain welfare or medical services because of cuts in transfer payments from Ottawa. Fewer Canadians will be employees of the federal government, and the government, in turn, will offer fewer services.

In addition, the Liberals have not resolved the privatization controversy at Toronto's Pearson International Airport, and the resultant delays due to construction of flaking repave users of the facility. And as they demonstrated last week, they have not succeeded in letting Canadians forget about Mulroney—see, for that matter, the Goods and Services Tax. That means that at least one jump ahead from anyone who is poor,

unemployed, elderly, infirm, a frequent flyer, a consumer or a farmhand (and so many of the former Tory prime ministers—which collectively taken into account almost all of the Canadian population).

All of which is to say that the Liberals will have a hard time showing Canadians tangible ways in which their lives have been improved since the October 1993 election. Even for Liberals, the notion of a slogan that amounts to, "Vote for us because we did nothing for you," carries a taste of cynicism. As a result, expect the rest of the Liberal mandate, up to and including the campaign, to be riddled up in interesting displays of statistics, flowcharts and chest-thumping.

The Liberals can—and already do—point to economic success stories. One recently produced party policy document cites figures: the unemployment rate has fallen to 9.5 per cent from 11.3 per cent in 1990, and real growth in the country's gross domestic product has exceeded the average in the G7 countries since 1990.

Most of that would have happened if the Liberals did absolutely nothing—which was generally the case. At the same time, the Liberals will not talk as much about the findings of Harvard University professor and competition guru Michael Porter, who noted these other things about Canada in a speech in Montreal last week: real family income has decreased three per cent since 1990, and the value of the Canadian dollar fell 36 per cent internationally since 1991 to 1996. The result, said Porter, is that Canadian have found themselves subjected over the past five years to a "national salary cut."

How much are the Liberals at fault for that? No more than they are responsible for the pain. The exposure of the national government to a global economy means that the choices will be fought on issues over which no party can claim control. So prepare for a campaign that stands another season on its head by focusing these three elements: statistics, more statistics, and damned lies about who is to be applauded or blamed for them.

The main appeal of the Grits in seeking a second term may be the lack of appeal of their opponents



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## Canada NOTES

### REPRODUCTION RULES

Federal Health Minister David Dingwall introduced legislation outlawing surrogate motherhood, in which a woman is paid to bear a baby on contract. Ottawa is also banning a wide range of other reproductive technologies, including the selection of babies for non-medical purposes and commercial trade in eggs, sperm and embryos. The bill is the government's long-awaited response to the 1993 report of the Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies.

### GAY RIGHTS VICTORY

A landmark ruling by the Canadian Human Rights Commission reveals that homosexual couples who are federal employees, or employees of federally regulated industries, are now eligible for many of the same benefits as married workers. The ruling covers benefits ranging from dental payments and health-care plans to moving expenses. But it excludes pension benefits, which were referred to the Federal Court because they fall under the Income Tax Act.

### MOUNTIE KILLED

Sergeant Derek Reinholdt, 46, ex RCMP officer with 30 years experience, was shot and killed after responding to a domestic dispute in Martins Creek, N.E., 70 km southeast of Halifax. He was apparently killed with a concealed handgun by a man who was himself shot and killed by backup officers.

### FEAR IN WINNIPEG

A police survey indicated that nearly half of Winnipeg residents are afraid to go out at night. Of the 497 people surveyed, 77 per cent said they believe crime is on the increase, more than police statistics show the opposite to be true.

### CAMERON CONTRADICTED

Former New Scotia premier Donald Cameron's testimony at the Westray inquiry was directly contradicted by Tara Mearns, a former deputy industry minister, who said Cameron played a very hands-off role in regulations to establish the Westray mine, where 26 men died in an underground explosion in May 1982. Mearns added that Cameron often sided with the mine's owners in disputes with the government. Cameron testified on May 28 that he did not play a large role in regulations to open the mine.



Rock ruling out repeat murders for early release

## New moves on parole and rape

Federal Justice Minister Allan Rock seemed to make the so-called fast-track clause for convicted murderers in the Canadian Criminal Code sadder still. Carried by Section 745 of the code allows first-degree murderers to ask a jury for reduced parole eligibility.

ably after serving 15 years, rather than the statutory 25 years. The idea behind the clause—which dates back to 1976 when Parliament abolished capital punishment and replaced it with mandatory minimum sentences—was to provide an incentive for good behavior and rehabilitation.

But under proposed legislation tabled by Rock, multiple murderers would be ineligible to make such an early release application, as would those convicted of the most heinous crimes. "What we are saying is that 745 is for the exceptional cases," said Rock. "While eliminating the provision for the most offenders, we are preserving the option for those who should have access to it."

Meanwhile, Rock introduced another bill that would make it harder for defence lawyers to gain access to the counselling records of women who have been raped. The proposed changes would force the lawyers to first convince a judge that such documents—including medical, psychiatric and employment records as well as personal diaries—are relevant to their case.

If they are successful, the judge would then review the records to prove and decide whether they should be used at trial. "It's a balancing of values," said the justice minister, "between the accused's right to full defence and the privacy and equality rights of the victim."

### OPINION

## Language and politics

Quebec Education Minister Jean Feketeau Monday announced that the province will replace its French Catholic and Protestant school boards with French-language and English-language boards by mid-1998.

Quebec's new system would be more efficient and better reflect the increasingly secular nature of Quebec society. Protestants and Catholics will be provided the right to set up religious communities to run some denominational schools within the linguistic bounds. But Feketeau decided the critics of the plan may mount a

legal challenge against it. In another controversial move, Quebec Culture Minister Louise Gaudet announced the return of the so-called language police—a unit of inspectors who enforce the province's commercial signs law mandating that signs in French be predominant. The unit was abolished by the former Liberal government in 1993.

## Working it out in Ontario

Persistent bickering from the bar and anti-poverty activists forced Ontario Social Services Minister David Cusumano to cut short a news conference at Niagara Falls, Ont., on his government's controversial welfare program. By September, welfare recipients in 29 Ontario commu-



Rebuckling breaking the cycle

ties will have to work up to 37 hours per week in community service or lose their benefits. By 1998, the vast majority of Ontario welfare recipients will be forced to do the same. The province called welfareers as an attempt to "break the cycle of dependency." But critics say that it does not address high unemployment—and that it will lead to job losses for people who now do the work that will be assigned to welfare recipients.



Just outside  
this window,  
Sharon is  
playing tag with her  
children. It's amazing  
considering she  
could barely get  
out of bed last week.

Sharon's rough and tumble kids think that Chiropractors are pretty impressive people. You see, it was a Doctor of Chiropractic that got their mom out of bed (where she was no fun) and into a game of tag (which, by their account, is very fun). What was keeping her in bed in the first place, you ask? Like millions of other Canadians, Sharon's neck and back had become so painful that even getting out of bed in the morning was difficult. Sharon knew the best way to find relief from back and neck pain was to call a Chiropractor. On the first visit her Chiropractor thoroughly examined her to assess the problem. In this case an x-ray was taken and the diagnosis led to a specific treatment programme including Chiropractic adjustments and exercises for her to do at home. The result? The expert care and treatment gave her the relief she was looking for. Now, Sharon's back where she belongs – jumping over toys in the yard trying to tag her oldest son. To find out how Chiropractic Doctors can help you or to find Chiropractors in your neighbourhood please call 1-800-558-5031.





Shopping for Mom: One Mexican parent must now be smart not by the who she feeds

# A long climb back

Mario Esquivel, a tall, handsome Mexican whose wife is clutching the chubby baby of his 2-year-old son, is one of a minority in Mexico City who agrees with the government's assertion that the economy is crawling out of the depths of its 18-month-old recession. In a supermarket booth and bagged back, he notes with optimism that sales of his tortilla brokerage in the *comarcas* Central de Abasco, the distribution center for the sprawling capital's staple foods, have recovered from last year's 40 percent plunge. He calls this mass of warehouses, vendors and scurrying patrons "the stomach of Mexico City." Nearly half of Mexico's national harvest, 20,000 tons of food daily, moves through its labyrinth of 3,800 warehouses. Some 250,000 traders, truck drivers, retailers and wholesalers work there. So, a 40 percent decline at "Supply City" is a good indication of the country's hole in Mexico's belly during the depths of the financial crisis.

The fact that sales are picking up in Esquivel's warehouse, as well as those of spice trader Ricardo Manopaca and egg wholesaler Ruben Gonzalez, is a sign of the country's increasing economic appetite. "What happens here reflects what's happening elsewhere," notes Esquivel. The market baffle hints at what is going on in the domestic economy, the part that shrunk most dramatically in the wake of the disastrous 40 percent devaluation of the peso in December, 1994. The cheaper currency has spoiled a host of its exports, but that has mainly benefited the country's low trading partners. Esquivel's rising stock register offers hope for the "real" economy, the internal movement of goods and services that puts

**Mexico starts to pull out of its crisis, but life is still a struggle**

load on the table of the average—and long-suffering—Mexican.

Certainly that was the message that President Ernesto Zedillo earned with him last week on a five-day visit to Canada, principally to drum up new investment. "Mexico is turning the corner," he told Montreal in an interview. At stake across the country, the 44-year-old former technocrat acknowledged with characteristic bluntness that the country still faces severe problems, including corruption, human rights abuses, drug cartels and a vast divide between rich and poor. In a relaxed session with Prime Minister Jean Chretien in Ottawa, he traded thoughts on issues ranging from expanding trade to fighting Washington's Helms-Burton bill, which targets Iranian firms dealing with Cuba (page 38). But Zedillo's most consistent theme was that his country is back on track, and that he is determined to push through the political and economic reforms that he sees as crucial to combating its problems. "Mexico today has become a country committed to change, to redress imbalances of the past and to meet the challenges of the future," he declared in an address to a special joint session of Parliament.

Yet even Zedillo concedes that Mexico still has a long way to climb back. The 1994 financial crisis capped a year in which an Indian uprising in the southern state of Chiapas made world headlines and the leading presidential candidate was assassinated. Still, his investors began making dollars once just as some large short-term loans were due. The crunch came shortly after the assassinated Zedillo, the replacement candidate, was sworn in as president on Dec. 1, 1994. The bottom fell out of the peso, and the

economy shrank by nearly seven per cent over the following year. Now, 18 months later, there are signs of increasing optimism around Zedillo's countrymen over their steep drop in living standards.

A nationwide poll published this month in the respected newspaper *Reforma* showed that 64 per cent of those surveyed were unhappy with Zedillo's management of the economy. *Reforma* itself believed their situation is worse now than one year earlier. That could bode ill for the young president, whose six-year term expires in 2000. His public approval rating hovers at 38 per cent as preparations are under way for tough mid-term congressional elections next year.

The optimistic voices of men like Esquivel are drowned out by those who are still hurting. Earlier this month, in the style of the 1910 Mexican Revolution, dozens of domestic families hijacked a trainload of corn and beans in the southern state of Nuevo Leon. In the south, government negotiations with the indigenous rebels in Chiapas have so far failed to resolve demands for political and economic development, though the talks continue.

Since exports remain the only point in time, Mexicans are trying to tap into the international economy in any way they can. In the northwest city of Hermosillo, assembly plant manager Jose Ramirez is relieved that he works in a company that builds truck-spare parts for export. His brother, an engineer, was laid off from a nearby factory dedicated to the local economy. Painter Jose Pineda in Mexico City works feverishly on a show planned for October in Puerto Rico, since art sales in Mexico have come to a near standstill. Domestic worker Clementina Ortiz contemplates a voyage to the United States to work illegally, so she can finish construction of her modest home in the Mexico City suburb of Tlaxco.

Those who cannot find a hole to the outside world just keep lightening their belts. One in Mexico City bar manager Lillia Prieta, who dropped out of the fermented maguery circuit years ago as prices at night tripped her, her sales are off 50 per cent from pre-devaluation levels. "Things are really difficult here, and I don't see it getting any better," she says. The country's economic climate shows that Mexico, eternally plagued by the gap between the rich and the poor majority, is more than ever an economy divided. The export option is offset by declines in other areas that hurt ordinary Mexicans. Business activity contracted its fall through March of 1995, down from a year earlier. While new jobs are being created, they have not replaced the 500,000 lost during the first six months of 1995. Inflation may be down from its 50 percent peak last year, but it still ranges above 20 per cent to 30 per cent. The Labor Secretary recently announced that Mexicans have lost nearly three-quarters of their

## 'IT WILL TAKE EFFORT'

While staying at the Governor General's residence in Ottawa last week, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo, 44, a Yale-educated economist, talked with Michel Fortin, *Montreal Star* columnist.

**Maclean's:** The world got a great scare in December, 1994, due to Mexico's financial crisis. How have you progressed in turning the economy around?

**Zedillo:** I think the message is very clear—Mexico is turning the corner. A year ago, we were in the midst of a terrible crisis, it's true. But today, Mexico is recovering. In this quarter, the economy will grow in the vicinity of five per cent. Inflation is one half of what it was a year ago, interest rates are less than a third. Our exchange rate has been basically stable now for five-and-a-half months. The unemployment rate, which hit a historic high last August, has come down significantly. So I think



Zedillo: 'I've been a democrat all my life'

the Mexican economy is showing its flexibility and its new capacity to compete in the global economy. I think it will become stronger from this crisis.

**Maclean's:** What are your goals for this trip?

**Zedillo:** Well, of course we want to promote Canadian investment in Mexico, but I also want to promote bilateral trade and, if possible, to promote Mexican investment in Canada.

**Maclean's:** Now and the Prime Minister are also discussing joint action against the American Helms-Burton Act, which punishes countries dealing with Cuba. Do you think this law will be implemented with the pace urgency after the U.S. presidential election?

**Zedillo:** I think that as time passes it will become evident how cumbersome and costly it will be for the United States to implement Helms-Burton. Certainly, firms that might be affected are not going to rest idle. I would assume that they would go to court and probably legal problems regarding Helms-Burton will emerge with great force. The cost-benefit analysis of the whole situation will change significantly. That should be most evident after the election [Douglas Maclellan's October 24 election].

**Maclean's:** October 24 is your election. How do you feel about the political reforms in Mexico now becoming dogged down. How do you respond?

**Zedillo:** Our expectation is that perhaps before the summer a vote will have what I have called the "definite electoral reform" [which] should lead us into a clear, transparent, fully legal federal electoral decision in 1997 and should lead us in the year 2000 to what I call "normal democracy," or "democratic normality" if you will. The big issue now is not whether elections are legal, are clean, but whether they are fair. We have progressed so much. A few years ago, the issue was the legality of the elections, electoral fraud. Now, it is whether the [judicial] PRI has too much of an advantage over the other parties.

**Maclean's:** There are peace talks on now with the group involved in the Chiapas uprising. When can you imagine a resolution?

**Zedillo:** We don't really have a deadline. We have already completed negotiations on a major issue, the rights of the Indian communities. We are beginning another chapter on democracy and justice. We don't have to rush. Rather, we have to obtain sound agreements.

**Maclean's:** Another aspect of potential unrest is the lack of growth in real wages.

**Zedillo:** The country became poorer in 1994. All of the economy had to adjust to that same circumstance. I would be a demagogue, a populist, if I told people that as soon as we have the recovery that industry will recover their savings, their wages, their profits. That's a lie. It will take time, it will take discipline, it will take effort.

**Maclean's:** How would you describe yourself? Has your background as a lawyer and politician helped you in dealing with entrenched political interests?

**Zedillo:** I think it has helped me a lot to have very strong views on four issues. I have a very strong view on democracy. I have been a democrat all my life, since I was a little boy. My economic background has been terribly useful in these circumstances.

I have a very strong view about the rule of law. Even though I am not a lawyer, I happen to believe that any country needs the rule of law if it is going to develop. And I think it has been extremely useful that as minister of education in 1993 I was in charge of the most important educational reform undertaken in many decades.

purchase power in the past 20 years, while the number of Mexican billionaires on the *Forbes* list of the world's wealthiest grew from two to 24 in the same period.

Zedillo, who comes from a working-class background with few ties to the political and business elites, takes no defense of the wealth gap. Instead, he uses it to justify the reforms begun by his predecessor, Carlos Salinas de Gortari. "I think that if anything explains our very poor economic distribution," Zedillo told *McGraw-Hill*, "it is the rather liberal policies that we followed for many years. Prioritizing our economy meant protecting the rich, compensating against labor in favor of capital and making our economy prone to success leaving everything in the hands of a few."

He, like Salinas, has followed the now-dominant formula of protection, free trade and market reforms. "The economy is undergoing a new coverage and we are working very hard to correct the structural problems," says Jaime Zabalsola, the deputy foreign trade secretary, citing a cornucopia of programs to diversify exports, close old trade fairs, businesses increase domestic savings, motivate agriculture and improve education. But the contradictions remain. "I suppose it is natural for the government to concentrate on the macro economy because that is the only bright spot. But if you look at the daily lives of Mexicans, nothing has changed," says Lorena Meyer, one of the country's most prominent humanists. "The government is waiting, waiting for the help of the middle, a virtual reality."

As with any crisis, however, there are opportunities. That was the line Zedillo touted last week to high-tech industry leaders in Ottawa, mining and energy executives in Calgary. Economic leaders in Toronto and experts of shipping and mining industries in Vancouver. And many Canadians doing business in Mexico agree that the time is better than ever for long-term investors to take advantage of the North American Free Trade Agreement. When it comes to Zedillo, accelerated the roll-out of state-owned enterprises, the strengthening of the banking system to foreign banks and the liberalization of the telecommunications sector, Canadian banks such as the Bank of Montreal and the Bank of Nova Scotia returned in this year to prop up failing Mexican institutions with multibillion-dollar injections. At least 70 Canadian mining companies are exploring or mining in Mexico, and Calgary-based Nova Scotia has expanded its role in the operation of the country's previously protected natural-gas market. One of the biggest beneficiaries has been Northern Telecom, the Mississauga, Ont.-based manufacturer of telecommunications equipment, which has won two major phone-system contracts worth \$900 million. "It's easy to do business here. We are comfortable here and the Mexicans like Canadians," says Stan Zabalsola, president of Northern Telecom de Mexico.

Sandler Canadian companies abroad. Mexico City-based Williams Inc. president of Correo Consulars Ltd. of Halifax, said \$2 million worth of Atlantic fish in Mexico last year. "The biggest effect of NAFTA is that it opened Canadian eyes to the fact that Mexico exists as a market. They couldn't imagine selling any further south than Boston," explains Lee. He wants to process Canadian fish in Mexico, import Mexican fish into Canada and sell Canadian Christmas trees in the southern states. "It is a market in Mexico and the time to be wondering," he says. But as a victim of Latin American trade, he knows enough to temper his optimism with a cautionary note. It will be years before the economy returns to pre-devaluation levels, he says. And he adds, in an observation that Zedillo would not dispute, "It's got to be awfully hard to be a Mexican these days."

**SAUL LOEB** is in Mexico City with **DEBORAH BOGDANSKI** in Ottawa.

## GETTING CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Sometimes, as Prime Minister John Chretien and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo discovered one afternoon last week, the most formal occasions lead to the least formal moments. That happened in Chretien's cabinet room on Parliament Hill as he and several ministers joined Zedillo and his counterparts for two hours of informal discussions. The Mexicans opened the meeting with Zedillo producing a large, ornate book commemorating the friendship between the two countries. When Zedillo attempted to slide the book across the table to Chretien, it came to a halt halfway across, so that neither man could reach it. But Chretien, undaunted, scooped himself up on the table with one knee, reached forward and fetched it.

That informal act typified the increasingly easy, matter-of-fact tone of relations between the two countries. The breadth of issues the leaders talked about—ranging from Canadian concern about Mexico's human rights record to discussions of expanded trade plans—was at a scope that Canada normally reserves only for talks with the United States. Two-way trade is still relatively small—\$6.5 billion last year. But in Mexico, Canadian officials have found the one other country that understands firsthand the perils and joys of living next door to the world's superpower. One of the subjects that binds the two nations most tightly now is their shared and sharp condemnation of Washington's Helms-Burton legislation, which seeks to impose sanctions on foreign firms doing business with Cuba. Canadian officials praised their Mexican counterparts on plans to introduce statutory legislation.

Otherwise, the Canada-Mexico relationship is farings with it the heady glow of two leaders still marveling at their newly discovered tastes of mutual respect, and not just prepared to dwell much on their differences. Chretien and his ministers spoke on a first-name basis with their counterparts, all of whom speak English fluently. The two leaders discussed their mutual dislike of being constantly surrounded by security, and Zedillo related how he recently had to save one of his own bodyguards from drowning while scuba diving.

All of that warmth and informality tended to obscure the fact that there were no new agreements signed of any consequence. But with typical optimism, an aide to Chretien said the newly friendly tone of the relationship is now so such a stable footing that "no great decisions are needed." And under French Prime Minister Alain Juppé, who also visited last week, there was no need to monitor Zedillo's every word for fear he would encourage Quebec separatists. In fact, a potential visit by Zedillo to see Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard was put off at the last minute—because Bouchard's people said he was too busy meeting with Juppé.

**ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH** in Ottawa

## Flames of racial tension

### A spate of church burnings angers blacks

Thirty-five years ago in the U.S. South, fire was a favored weapon of white supremacists opposing civil rights for black Americans. On May 14, 1961, a firebomb landed in a white mob's hands on a Greyhound bus bound for the Alabama capital of Montgomery with "Freedom Riders"—

blacks and whites challenging racial segregation. The passengers fled the flames through burning windows. A week later a white throng stormed a Montgomery church where blacks were gathered to hear Martin Luther King Jr. preach passive resistance. National guardsmen finally rescued the civil rights leader and his aides for the next day. At that time, the torch use of churches was widespread, striking at the political heart and spiritual soul of black communities. Now, the burning of more than 30 black churches over 18 months in nine southern states—in Texas just last week—has set off official alarms and a flurry of activity in Washington. Saying that "racial hostility in the church is a danger to the nation," President Bill Clinton said the spate of fires "brings back to a dark era in our nation's history."

So far, police have uncovered racial motives in only two of the most cases. They have turned up the evidence of only one conspiracy that links the nighttime burnings of mainly small-town churches. In many cases, local authorities cite madon vandalism or monetary efforts to conceal burglary. After a fire on June 6 at a church in Charlotte, S.C., police arrested a "very troubled" 13-year-old white girl and charged her with a sexual connection. In Greenville, Tex., the fire chief described two church fires on June 9 as "acts of local vandalism." But black leaders blame the political atmosphere—a current backlash against the civil rights reforms of the United States. President Clinton says Jack, an article "a kind of anti-black racism, a kind of white riot" festered in Congress and the courts.

In response last week, top Clinton administration



REPORT FROM WASHINGTON  
BY CARL HOLLING

strives officials held a series of highly publicized meetings with southern pastors. A congressional committee, which held hearings last month on the fires, approved legislation to toughen laws against attacks on places of worship. Clinton flew to Greenville, S.C., for a ceremony opening a new

The local pastor prays next to remains of Charlotte church "a kind of white riot"

church near the site of one burned down a year ago. And though presidential candidates both sided with a conservative, some Republicans questioned the Democrat President's actions in an election

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## WORLD

year. "Clinton does not see a tragedy," charged House Majority Leader Dick Armey. "He sees a photo op." Before the dedication at Greenville's new Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church, many in the mile-long crowd of about 1,800 people wore the so-called patches of Eilat nearby where an 80-year-old pastor had stood until he was killed in the ground on June 28, 1996. For that day, and another church burning in the same area the following night, two white men in their early 20s have been charged with arson. Evidence also links men in members of the Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, a group said to have denounced black churches in letters for learning how to get police welfare.

The KKK connection generated suspicion that the burning of churches with black congregations may have been linked. So did a case in Clarksville, Tenn., where four men associated with an anti-black group, the White Aryan Force, were sentenced early this year for firebombing black-owned buildings and conspiring to burn a black church. After the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People began drawing national attention to the rash of arson, other civil rights groups joined the campaign.

"Their pressure prompted the congress-

ional hearings in May; the meetings last week with federal officials and the posting at more federal agents to investigate the fires. It prompted Clinton's reminders of the years when "black churches were burned to intimidate civil rights workers—and his personal appeal, as in Greenville, "I want to ask every citizen in

**'Clinton does not see a tragedy,' charged a House leader. 'He sees a photo op.'**

America to say we are not going back, we are not slipping back in these dark days." The evidence so far indicates that, while racism is behind some of the burnings, most are motivated by other factors. The Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms cites 123 cases of arson at houses of worship in 27 states during the past five years, 36 in black churches. One white Protestant is blamed for fires in 31 white Protestant churches and a Catholic church. Twelve fires at synagogues are attributed to a man with a Jewish family background. In Alabama, 45 cases of arson at houses of worship in 33 churches destroyed by fire since 1980—39 black, 15 white. Five fires at black churches are still under investigation.

testimonies. Of the others, says Robinson, "In most cases, fires were started to conceal other crimes made the church"—usually burglary. Arsonists include 23 whites and nine black suspects.

Despite the numbers, black activists argue that the fiery attacks on the central institutions of black communities do reflect a "slipping back" in a current trend to dismantle such civil rights reforms as welfare and affirmative action rules that assist minorities. Only last week, the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed the designing of electoral districts to assure black representation in Congress. Justice Jackson said it "like later cases in Congress are attempting to strip-civil rights legislation, the black robes are handing out restrictive rulings and the white sheets are doing the burning."

In Montgomery's Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, once Martin Luther King's pastorate and a cradle of the civil rights revolution, Deacon Richard Jordan is guarded in laying direct blame that he feels Republicans in Congress for fostering a negative atmosphere. "These far-right groups really don't help the situation," he says. "The New England kind of since never helped, the Bob Dole kind of voice doesn't help me and a more moderate race." But for the violent racists who attack churches with fire since 1980—39 black, 15 white. Five fires at black churches are still under investigation.

## World NOTES

### FREE SPEECH ON-LINE

In a major ruling that lifts American restrictions on the Internet, a U.S. federal court unanimously struck down the Communications Decency Act, saying it violates First Amendment rights to free speech. The legislation, passed earlier this year, sought to limit pornography and seductive material on the Internet's highway. Wrote Judge Stewart Dillard of the three-member panel: "Just as the strength of the Internet is chaos, so the strength of our liberty depends upon the chaos and cacophony of the unfettered speech the First Amendment protects."

### DEATHS IN LEBANON

Israel's prime minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to strike back at Islamic Hizbollah guerrillas in retaliation for the vicious killing of Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon. Later in the week, three Lebanese children died when a bomb went off on a road in the Israeli-controlled zone. Israel blamed it on Hizbollah, claiming it was the second time in 24 hours the group had killed a six-week-old ceasefire.

### NEW BANGLADESH LEADER

Sheik Hasina Wazed, daughter of Sheik Mujibur Rahman, who was assassinated during an army coup 21 years ago, was elected Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Her father, leader of Bangladesh, died in 1975. Sheik Hasina, 45, defeated incumbent Sheikh Zia, the wife of an earlier murdered leader. The internationally monitored elections ended two years of political paralysis.

### IRAQI OBSTRUCTION

Iraqi authorities blocked UN inspectors from entering two military bases near Baghdad. The United Nations condemned the obstruction of its experts, who monitor chemical, biological and nuclear weapons capabilities. The renewed standoff came just three weeks after the UN Security Council issued sanctions on all sales imported after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

### RISKS OF MOTHERHOOD

Almost six million of the world's women will die this decade of complications due to childbirth—most of them preventable, UNICEF said in its annual report. The UN children's fund called the rate of maternal death "the most neglected tragedy of our times." Up to 600,000 women a year, now in the developing world, lose their lives while bearing children, while another 200 million suffer health damage.



**BOMB BLAST:** A suspected IRA car bomb injured more than 200 people in the northern English city of Manchester on Saturday, at the end of the first week of historic Northern Ireland peace talks. A telephone warning to a TV station from a man with an Irish accent preceded the blast by 60 minutes. Police had evacuated the area, crowded with weekend shoppers and tourists attending the European soccer championships, when a parked van exploded. Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA, has been barred from the peace talks until the IRA resumes its 18-month ceasefire that ended in February with a London bomb that killed two people.

## The quiet surrender of the Freeman

The longest armed siege in modern U.S. history ended peacefully when the last 16 members of the outlawed Montana Freeman holding out in eastern Montana surrendered to FBI agents. Taken in custody included Dale Martin Jacobs, a 54-year-old former Calgary police officer. After 81 days locked up with their weapons at "Jonestown," a ranch near the town of Jordan, 130 km south of the Saskatchewan border, the Freeman ended hugs and nail parades as they were led to a conveyer to jail in Billings, 200 km away. Fourteen members face criminal charges. 44 inmates include circulating millions of dollars in bogus cheques and threatening to kill a federal judge. The group rejected federal authority and had set up its own anti-government, including a "court" system.

The FBI seized the nearest end of the

standoff as a triumph for federal authorities, who had been aided by the violent raids to suppress at Waco, Tex., in 1993, in which 80 people died, and Ruby Ridge, Idaho, in 1992. "The message that comes out of this is very clear," said FBI director Louis Freeh, dismissing complaints he was too soft on the group. "If you break the law, the United States government will enforce the law and it will do it fairly, but firmly." Since March, a total of 253 federal agents had noticed in and out of the standoff house. Up to 150 were in the vicinity at any one time. In recent weeks, law enforcement officials had pressured the group by cutting off electricity and telephone contact to the ranch. Ultimately, the Freeman faced serious shortages of food, water and fuel, according to several members who had voluntarily left the compound earlier.

## A crash landing in Japan

Three people died and 108 were injured when a Garuda Indonesian airliner skidded off a runway at southern Japan's Pulauok airport and burst into flames in a nearby field. Seconds after the DC-10 jet third off for the Indonesian resort island of Bali, panic broke out as smoldering fire raced through the cabin. The plane plunked to earth and the cabin collapsed in, but most of the 200 passengers and 25 crew were able to escape before flames gutted the aircraft. The cause of the crash was under investigation, but an air traffic controller said he saw fire coming from the rear engine as the plane began to take off.



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## Canadians prepare to fight a U.S. ban on trade with Cuba

Norberto Gutiérrez knows that his day in court may not arrive for two years or more. But the 32-year-old Miami lawyer is prepared to be patient. His clients, about 85 Cuban-Americans, including members of his own family, say that the Cuban government confiscated their property after the 1959 Communist revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power. Gutiérrez is researching the claims with an eye to suing foreign companies that are exploiting those assets under joint ventures with the Cuban government. One of the lawyer's principal targets is Sheratt International Inc. of Toronto, which has led a stampede of Canadian companies into Cuba since the early 1990s. "We're going to use the law to the fullest," vows Gutiérrez. "We want foreign companies to leave Cuba and to stop financing the Castro government."

The law on which Gutiérrez and his clients are relying is the Helms-Burton Act, which received presidential approval in March and has since been roundly denounced by Canada, Mexico and several European governments as an attempt to make foreign companies comply with U.S. policy on Cuba. Besides giving individuals and companies the right to sue, the legislation—named for its congressional sponsors, North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms and Indiana Republican Representative Dan Burton—allows Washington to bar business executives and their families from the United States if their companies have invested in expropriated Cuban property in an escalating war of words over the



# Staking a claim

Helms-Burton law. International Trade Minister Art Eggleton said last week that Ottawa is considering regulatory legislation that would allow Canadian firms to counter U.S. companies. "The United States has an argument with Cuba," Eggleton told *Maclean's*. "Let them go after the Cubans. It doesn't give them a right to bully other countries into following their foreign policy."

Despite the high-octane rhetoric, many observers doubt that the law will spark a wave of court cases when the provisions allowing companies to sue take effect on Nov. 1, four days before the presidential election. Privately, some Canadian officials speculate that President Bill Clinton will disavow parts of the bill if he is returned to the White House, while American trade experts argue that he will let it stand. The U.S. government's own records show that 5,911 American companies lost Cuban assets after the Castro revolution, totaling those properties are worth an estimated \$18 billion. But fully half the claims involve 10 high-profile companies, including Exxon, Coca-Cola and Texaco. Ignacio Sanchez, a Miami lawyer who specializes in international law, says that major corporations may hesitate to launch lawsuits given the politically charged atmosphere around the legislation. Sanchez also notes that the Cuban government has signed only about 210 joint ventures with foreign partners,

implying that many potential claimants have no one to sue. "Most corporations are relatively conservative when it comes to high-profile lawsuits," he says. On the other hand, he adds, "I think there will be a rush to sue from Cuban-Americans because they still personally feel the injury and hurt of losing their assets."

Those odds would remain a fact of life among many Cuban exiles in south Florida. Gutiérrez, for example, was born in Costa Rica after his family fled Cuba but shares his parents' resentment of the loss of assets, including interests in insurance, food distribution and utilities. "My family went about its business peacefully," he said. "One day, armed militiamen showed up at our gates and said 'This belongs to the Cuban state.' Many Cuban-Americans complain bitterly that the Castro regime began selling confiscated properties after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1989 and cut off billions of dollars in annual subsidies to Cuba. "They're desperate for cash," said Sanchez. "So, typically, the terms are very favorable."

Cuban-Americans must wait until March, 1996, the second anniversary of the Helms-Burton bill, before suing. But dozens of them have already hired lawyers to prepare their cases. Gutiérrez says he has contacts inside and outside Cuba investigating the status of properties formerly owned by his

## A PIECE OF THE ACTION

The 10 largest Cuban expropriation claims as certified by the U.S. Foreign Claims Settlement Commission

	Claim (in millions)
1 Balsa Cerochim	\$380
2 ITT	180
3 Berdon	120
4 United Brands	115
5 Amstar	110
6 Exxon	100
7 Texaco	70
8 Freeport-McMoRan*	50
9 Coca-Cola Co.	40
10 Loma Sitr Industries	35

\*Sheratt International is among exiles on Cuban lost assets held by Mus Bay Mining, says Freeport-McMoRan

Sheratt chairman for Helms-Burton, the company's Cuban headquarters (below) appears



clients. Among other things, they have reported that one family's cattle ranch is now the site of an oil refinery operated by a Mexican company. A sugar plantation has become the site of two Spanish-owned hotels. And Gutiérrez contends that Sheratt International is drilling for oil on properties once owned by his family.

Sheratt may eventually face lawsuits from several plaintiffs. Retired Miami lawyer Alberto Diaz Mayoral is talking of suing the Toronto-based company for as much as \$50 million. He alleges that a subsidiary is exploring for oil and gas on lands formerly controlled by a company that he helped found. Meanwhile, a New Orleans-based mining and fertilizer production

company has investment opportunities in construction, real estate and sugar, among other things. "We are operating legally in Cuba," says Patrice Martin Best, vice-president of corporate affairs. "The historic ownership of properties that have been nationalized is a government-to-government issue. The issue of compensation is one for governments."

Encounters with several Toronto-based firms with such swiftness must be that they cannot be sued under Helms-Burton because they are developing new businesses or operating facilities built long after the Cuban revolution. Frank Smerch, president of MacDonell, Miami, Florida-based Ltd., says his company is exploring for gold and other minerals rather than working existing mines. Diane Kallus, president of York Medical Inc., says her company has signed licensing agreements to market and sell Cuban pharmaceuticals in world markets. And Steven Cooper, president of Delta Hotels and Resorts Ltd., says his company manages five resort hotels built by or for the Castro regime. "We don't see any chance that we can be sued," Cooper adds.

In the event, U.S. companies or individuals who do file lawsuits will face several hurdles. According to Stephen Marcus, a Canadian now practicing international law in Washington, they will have to prove that their former properties are now being used by the foreign company they are suing. More important, they will have to convince the courts that the United States has jurisdiction over the foreign companies. "I think many judges will be uncomfortable with this legislation," said Marcus. "It's very unusual for judges to become instruments of U.S. foreign policy, and that's what they are being asked to do here." Nevertheless, he has some advice for Canadian companies that might be sued: start planning a defense now.

BY JIMMY HENRI

# A Texas-style response to the unity question

**Gulf Canada Resources Ltd.** CEO J.P. Bryson does national television—criticism as well as letters and phone calls of support—when he sends out the national unity debate last week during and after a speech in the Calgary Pressclub Society. The Texas-born oilman, who holds four university degrees including undergraduate degrees in history and art, moved to Calgary from Houston in January 1980, where he and a group of investors purchased an assembly plant in Gulf County. Two days after the conference closed, Bryson, 58, spoke to Maclean's Calgary Bureau Chief Mary Newnack. Excerpt.



Bryson in his Calgary office as he is about to speak out

**Maclean's:** Could you recap your reaction about Quebec's referendum?

**Bryson:** I was discussing the fact that, at one time, this country had an energy policy that taxed the oil-producing provinces of Canada in a very severe way and transferred those funds to the non-oil-producing provinces, who had the evidence of pitting one Canadian against the other. I said that was a terribly unfortunate event, but it's bringing those again in this issue of separation. All Canadians should just drive a line in the sand and say, "We're not going to negotiate on separation." After the meeting, I was having a bit

of a further period of three, you can say once more. [This issue] is of great concern to me as CEO of this company. We are one of the larger independent oil companies in Canada. We employ about 800 people. And if a separatist movement were successful, it obviously would be very detrimental to our ability to compete globally. I further feel the right to speak out because, one, I think I am a significant

player in this country. Second, as my capacity as the CEO of this company, I have been shoulder to shoulder with many capable people here at Gulf, [responsible] for raising about \$1.3 billion that's been invested in the company or in enterprises that this company is engaged in. So, I think I've demonstrated that we have brought considerable property to this country. When something comes up that I think is germane to the society of this company and the people who work for this company, I think I have not only a right but an obligation to speak out. If I'm not going to do it, then who?

**Maclean's:** What do you mean when you say that we should drive a line in the sand?

**Bryson:** I think we just find them not going to separate. It's not that you don't have respect. It's just that at a certain point the majority rules, and especially when the majority's plan is valid to the detriment of the minority. I don't think most people want to fight over this thing. So I think you just say, legally we're not going to let it happen. There's no constitutional provision for secession.

**Maclean's:** After about 100 years of oppression, do you think there are steps Canada could take to better accommodate Quebec?

**Bryson:** If there are some legal

the fact point for all this situation. But I feel passionately about the issue.

**Maclean's:** And you stand by the comments?

**Bryson:** Sure. I apologized to the extent that it was a distraction from what I think is the real issue—the concept about putting people in the boat—which is obviously the thing that caused all the confusion. But I certainly stand by my strong feelings that this country should remain unified.

**Maclean's:** Some people might perceive whether it is appropriate for a non-Canadian to be getting involved in this debate.

**Bryson:** Why not? This country certainly has free speech and one of its founding principles—[it has] individual freedom. I don't believe there's a residency requirement that says that after a certain period of time, you can speak out to this degree, and

raise additional issues that need to be addressed, that would be in the best interests of Canada. If I would think everybody would recognize that this country has gone a long way to accommodate the French-Canadian. I mean, every box of cereal I look at in the grocery store has French on one side. The sign on the way to the airport are in French and we do not have—or have a very narrow—French population here. I don't understand where they feel they're being denied. This is not an issue about freedom. This is a people's issue. There's a cultural concern here. We just want to be on our own. I think it would be their reaction. I do not believe that a small group of people says moved from the bigger enterprise could do a successful, prosperous nation. □



## Personal Business

### The venture capital boom

Four years ago, John Selwyn was an ambitious young programmer for an Ottawa-based computer firm. Today, at 36, he is president and chief executive officer of his own company, CrossKeys Systems Corp., which boasts 170 employees, sales offices in six countries and \$12 million in revenues.

The rapid growth of CrossKeys, which develops software to help telecommunications companies manage their data networks, says a lot about Selwyn's talents as a software engineer and an entrepreneur. But it's also a testament to the power of venture capital. Back when Selwyn was still toying with the idea of setting up his own business, a wealthy investor offered \$500,000 in seed money in exchange for one-third of the company. "If it hadn't been for that, I wouldn't be where I am now," Selwyn acknowledges. "Instead of living from comfort to comfort, we were able to bring together a team of people, build a product and take it to market."

Good for Selwyn—and good for the Canadian economy. Because success stories like his are becoming increasingly common. For generations, the conventional wisdom has been that Canadians make poor entrepreneurs. That's the face of that pessimistic, however, is a recent explosion in the amount of venture capital available to help fledgling, innovative companies. Simply put, there has probably never been a better time in Canada to be an entrepreneur with a promising idea that needs time and an infusion of money to get off the ground.

One reason for this is the burst of talent in labour-sponsored venture capital funds, fuelled by tax breaks that allowed many investors to contribute up to \$5,000 and get back all but \$1,000. Other reasons include the rules that lower the funds' rate of growth, but already the funds are sitting on \$5.2 billion designated for investment in dynamic, growth-oriented companies. Another factor is the expanding list of high-tech successes in Canada—companies like Netbridge Networks Corp., Ceri Systems Corp. and Palfarm

Technologies Inc.—which has created a viable environment for promising start-ups. On top of that, the investors are investing more money in young companies to fend off criticism about their reluctance to lend money to small businesses.

Add it up and there is now roughly \$6 billion in venture capital in Canada, compared with \$3.3 billion in 1990. According to Macdonald & Associates, a Toronto-based firm that monitors the industry, venture capital funds invested a combined 3889 million last year in 364 businesses. The same firm, in a study for the federally owned Business Development Bank of Canada, says nearly 450 companies that secured venture financing between 1991 and 1994. In total, they created 48,575 jobs over the past five years, as well as \$780 million in research and development and generated more than \$6 billion in export sales.

If there's a worrisome trend buried in all the statistics, it's that the average size of companies attracting venture capital is slowly drifting upward. In 1990, half of them had fewer than 50 employees, down from 56 per cent in 1994. Given the high risks associated with start-ups, most venture capitalists prefer to invest their money in companies that already have \$1 million or so in revenues and the potential to reach \$30 million or more in five to seven years.

But even at the developmental stage, more cash is becoming available. Next week, a Toronto-based venture capital firm known as The Capitalists will announce a pilot program to provide seed capital to budding entrepreneurs, in conjunction with several high-profile corporate partners. "Our challenge is really to make the country for the best ideas that have global potential," says Paul Palmer, the company's chief executive. It is a similar view, Toronto's Quorum Growth Inc. is launching a two-year project with the Royal Bank and Anderson Consulting to secure some of Canada's innovations for commercially viable technology. If those programs take off, promising young companies, investors and Canada's economy will all reap the dividends for years to come.

There has probably never been a better time in Canada to be an entrepreneur with a good idea

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### SPECIAL INCENTIVE

Jeans manufacturer Levi Strauss & Co. said it will give its 37,000 workers, including 3,600 in Canada, an extra year's pay if the company meets its cash flow targets by 2001. The incentive program is intended to help the company pay down a \$5.1-billion debt. Levi Strauss has a long history of generous employee relations.

### CABLE COMPETITION

The CRTC has taken the first step toward dismantling the monopolies enjoyed by cable companies in many communities. The agency, which is gradually deregulating the telecommunications sector, approved a Vancouver company's request to offer cable service to residents of its Concord Pacific condominium project, even though Rogers Cable Systems holds the license for that area.

### NEW AIR ALLIANCE

Two of the world's biggest airlines are forming an alliance. Beginning next April, American Airlines and British Airways will co-ordinate schedules, bookings and flights. The deal requires U.S. approval. A rival British airline, Virgin Atlantic, attacked the agreement as "a legal cartel."

### BROKER CHARGED

The Investment Dealers Association charged Christopher Home, a former vice-president in Toronto for FNC Dominion Securities Inc., with 17 counts of misappropriating clients' money. The former broker is also facing 12 criminal counts of fraud and one of theft, relating to a total of \$6 million.

### PHONE RATE HIKES

Canada's major telephone companies want consumers to pay more for local service. The Stentor alliance, which represents the country's nine regional phone companies, has asked Ottawa for permission to hike basic monthly rates by \$2 to \$3 on June 1, 1995, in every province except Saskatchewan and Alberta.

### BREEDER'S CUP RETURNS

The Breeder's Cup is back on. Earlier this month, the U.S. organizers of the \$11-million horse racing event cancelled plans to hold it at Toronto's Woodbine Race Track on Oct. 26, citing a labor dispute involving 700 betting clerks. They reversed their decision after the clerks approved a new contract offer.



**CYBER BAY:** Canada's oldest company wants to be the first major retailer in the country to open a virtual store. Hudson's Bay Company president George Kosich says the firm's newest "store" will go on-line before Christmas as part of a larger Internet mall to be created by IBM Canada. The Bay's site will feature 300 to 400 items, as well as a bridal registry, a travel agency and information about the company's history. "We are going to build our site gradually to create a shopping environment that offers customers a valuable experience," Kosich said. Established in 1878, the company operates more than 400 stores and is the world's oldest continually operating commercial business.

## Growing consumer confidence

**H**ousing sales across Canada rose in May for the 53th straight month, the latest sign of improving consumer confidence. The Canadian Real Estate Association says that sales in 35 major markets across the country jumped 23 per cent last month compared with the same month last year. The pace of new home construction rose even faster, by 35 per cent to an annualized rate of 132,000 units, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. Experts say the improvement is mainly due to stable interest rates and stronger job growth. At the same time, a poll by the consulting firm Ernst & Young suggests that optimism about Canada's economic

prospects is beginning to take hold among consumers. In the April survey, 35 per cent of respondents said they expect their personal financial situation to improve next year, while 21 per cent expect it to be worse. That is a 10-per-cent jump in confidence over 1993. "What it tells me is the economy is continuing to heat," said Stephen Tassie, chief economist at Ernst & Young. Still, the results do not suggest that consumers across Canada are about to embark on a spending spree. Twenty-six per cent of those who expect to have more money next year said they would spend it. By contrast, 16 per cent would pay down debts and 56 per cent would put it into savings.

## A record financial scandal hits copper

Copper prices hit a two-year low of 93.85 cents (U.S.), a 15-cent drop, on Friday in the wake of what may be the largest financial scandal in history. A day earlier, Sumitomo Corp. of Japan, one of the world's largest brokerage houses and copper traders, announced that one of its top traders lost up to \$2.4 billion over a 39-year period in unauthorized trading, apparently aimed at inflating the price of the metal. The trader, Yasuo Hamanaka, 48, confessed to his superiors and was fired in May after U.S. and British authorities launched an investigation into trading irregularities. Despite the price plunge, shares in Canadian copper producers remained largely unaffected and expectations that the price would soon rebound.



# Peter C. Newman

## Has Major caught mad cow disease?

A quick visit to Britain suggests that Condo's once proud Mother Country is becoming the Quebec of Europe. Not quite sure whether it wants to be a full-fledged member of the European Union, or back as the splendid isolation of an island nation seeking its independent destiny, the Brits are having a nervous breakdown. Mad cow disease has spread to the politicians.

About the only bright note is the inventiveness of quietly individual life: Harry Good, of Hackney Heath in the Midlands, whose farm abuts the M63 motorway into London. Instead of passively waiting to have his herd slaughtered by government health authorities, Good has converted the animals into walking advertising boards, charging \$600 a week per cow to drape them with plastic jackets carrying advertising slogans.

In late May, when the European Union voted to ban such British beef derivatives as bull testicles, kidneys and udders from the continent, Prime Minister John Major declared war. In the most dramatic break with Europe since Britain joined the Common Market 33 years ago, he threatened to pass laws EU business by the use of his veto and by abolishing the Brussels-based organization's many deliberations that require unanimous consent. This he has since done, causing havoc among the Brussels bureaucrats and continental diplomats trying to impose a single European currency by Jan. 1, 1999.

The emboldened Tory leader gratefully responded by announcing that he would change his cabinet on a wartime footing, and angrily declaring during an emergency statement in the Commons that the nation was facing a "crisis of confidence"—and that he would never retreat until the Europeans lifted their embargo on British beef products.

Since Major leads an government hanging on to power with a majority of precisely one seat, the reason for launching his offensive is simple enough. He desperately needs his own version of Margaret Thatcher's Falklands War to divert the voters' attention from his shabby performance in the face of mounting domestic economic and social problems. Just as his predecessor gained a significant popularity boost by taking on the Argentinians, Major's stand has rallied his party behind him. "I don't know whether the Prime Minister is an Ecstasy or whether he had sex with a cow, but he certainly made a terrific impact," boasted Thomas Gorman, one of his Euro-skeptical backbenchers on the day of the PM's war declaration.

The Tory press has gone berserk singing his praises: "Cry havoc, and let slip the dogs of war," intoned *The Daily Telegraph*, paraphrasing William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. A columnist in the more caring *Daily Express* wrote: "Major goes in for war at last," mockingly pointed out that "our cattle may be rabidly, dying

and horns damaged, but that doesn't mean we are not within our rights to insist they be shooed down the throats of any Kew, Arge, Prag or Condo that we like." The crisis deepens daily. Just last week, The Sun, a leading London tabloid, called for an immediate boycott of German beer and German pornography. Now, that's serious.

Most voters aren't fooled by Major's play. The Tories have worked wonders within his caucus, but since the start of the great beef war, Tory party support in the country at large has remained mired at about 27 per cent, while Labour's running at a comfortable 54 per cent. Labour Leader Tony Blair has dumped most of his party's left wing policies and is busy forging strong relationships with traditional Tory corporate supporters.

None of these political games touch the real misery citizens. London remains the world's most fascinating—and most expensive—city. It was unseasonably cold when I was there, so to warm up I ducked into a nondescript restaurant off Soho for a cup of soup. It tasted as if it had just been poured out of a Campbell's can, but the bill came to £350—that's \$700! Still, few former seats of Empire offer so much to occupy the eye, the imagination and the memory. Those architects who built London's magnificent churches, hotels, office buildings and elegant town houses brought a touch of civility and refinement to their craft. Deus, Achenon, an anglophile who served with distinction as secretary of state under U.S. president Harry Truman, knew his history when he remarked that he could think of no more desirable place or period to have lived in than in mid-19th-century England, when the country was run by a small group of highly intelligent and largely disinterested individuals.

The City is still populated by their descendants, and they remain as cool and collected as ever. John Le Carré, the master of British spy novels, caught the mood in his astute comment that "even on Tuesday mornings or women can have a Peter Twelve nervous breakdown while he stands next to you in a bus queue, and you may be his best friend, but you'll never be his wife."

That approach to life has turned Major's desperate maneuver into farce. Blair will defeat Major in the next election that may come as early as this fall—even if British bull semen becomes respectable again in the stables of Europe.

Meanwhile, most of the talk in London clubs is about the American election campaign, with Bob Dole their strong favorite. The latest Bill Clinton story making the rounds concerns an imaginary National Security Council meeting he calls to be briefed about what's happening around the globe.

Near the end of the session, an aide pipes up: "What about Bosnia?"

"This lying bitch," Clinton shoots back. "I never had a hand on her!"



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BY CHRIS WOOD

**I**n his bar smoking jacket, white sneakers and sandy-grey stationing-up whiskies, Clive Smith bears an eerie resemblance to one of his company's own creations. Settled in an overstuffed green armchair to discuss the international popularity of Canadian-made cartoons, he has the air of a portly Beavis. The mischievous, grumpy face of the many animated series that Nickelodeon has brought to life in Toronto since Smith founded the studio with Michael Smith and Patrick Lebert in 1971. Then, he reminisces, "there was no animation industry" in Canada. Now, as the company hits 25, kids are watching Canadian-made cartoons in classrooms from Boston to Beijing. Much of Smith's recognition arrives in takes up with the trophies of Nebuta's success in the United States. In 1997, the Bear network, a stream of series that now mix with other Nebuta productions, is more than 140 countries. "Our market," Smith jokes, "is the world."

Nelvana is not alone. Montreal's CINAR Films Inc., with *The Little Lash Show* and 28 other series in its library, sells its productions in more than 100 countries. *ReBoot*, the first animated series for television created entirely with computer graphics,

## Canada's artists bring new life to animation

**CANADIAN** has been  
world in 47 coun-  
tries by its Vancouver origi-  
nators. Dozens of other studios are

also been sold in 47 countries by its Vancouver originators. Dances of other studios are also contributing to the \$190-million-a-year roster of assessed production in Canada, turning out a steady stream of series, television specials and quicker hits for

More than that, *Avatar* is a home to the high wizards of the next wave of animation magic. The computer artists who fabricate fantasy from nothing more substantial than the electronic plumes that flicker through a wireframe. Using invisible software from creators such as *Toronto: Alti/Wireframe*, computer animators like Steve 'Spaz' Williams have dazzled and delighted audiences in movies including last year's hyper-realistic *Jurassic* and 2004's *The Mask*, which earned Williams an Oscar nomination (page 42).

Whether their tool is a pencil or a mouse, Canadian animators are riding an explosion in demand for their talent. That is thanks in large measure to a reputation first established by animation pioneers working for the National Film Board (see 40). Now, studios in Hollywood, London and Paris stand in line for the most talented graduates from the best-known of several Canadian animation training centres: Sheridan College in Ontario. One, just west of Toronto (see 42) "Sheridan," says Blum, now Nebuta's chairman, "is the Harvard of animation schools—as a worldwide brand."

Competition across the country's 75 major news studios for Sheridan and other anchors

Endless animators or computer software created The Lion King's meerkat, Timon, and Toy Story's Woody (meats), as well as descending under an ariel The Musk's square efforts. Dragonheart's dragon, Hunchback's Clopin, Jurassic Park's T. rex, and...

tion graduates rose sharply with the arrival in Canada this spring of the industry's 800-ft. gorilla The Walt Disney Co., got in with both feet, opening studios in April at both Vancouver and Toronto. At year's end will employ animators making direct-to-video videos for Disney's home hits. Other Canadians do stunts in Burbank, Calif., create special characters on features like Disney's *Howl's Moving Castle*, which opens this week.

Canadians lead as well in writing the complex simulations of programs language that allow computer models to mimic and modify real-world images with heart-stopping fidelity. Most of the sophisticated

software used to give shape, but also notions such as the lag of Transistor 2

Judgment Day, and to place Tim Hasko on the stage platform as John F. Kennedy in *Forrest Gump*, comes from companies based in Toronto and Montreal. Hill Recrea-

the genial entrepreneur who oversaw production of Disney's *Toy Story*—the first fully digital animated feature—at his Animation Studios, Inc. of San Francisco, grew

the best thing about this part is the work of a team from the Industrial Light & North York, Ont., where

ing the way Hollywood makes pictures," is president of Toronto's C.O.R.E. Digital Post-effects company that grew out of a team work on William Shatner's television series *Star Trek: Voyager*, whose software was used in special effects in eight of last year's 10 movies, animations are grander still. "Owens praises Robert Burgess, 'the real man

to create synthetic human beings that are indistinguishable from real ones." Atlas already has engineers working to bring a digital Adam to life in its 1990s-futurist-style quarters in a former chocolate factory.

Across Iowa, Nelson's home is in another farmer's barn—in this case an emmentaler plant. There is nothing new about what it produces now. Nielsen (the company takes its name from a 1940s-era Danish immigrant who superlabeled his beef as 800-tennessee-pork because largely no one there describes as a "steak, ground beef, or bacon" in fact, with series such as the mid-1980s Cave Bear, Nielsen took pride in emmentaler-style cheeses. Action series include "Pulse-A-7s" and the now-defunct "Tales from the Cryptosphere." The company's first foray into branding, as late as the state's air quality program, was the "Midwest Series," the first animated series to air regularly on PBS in the United States.

But with some exceptions, and despite whatever else they say about the way of ideologically Canadiana reflections, industry leaders acknowledge that Canadian-made cartoons are less available in confrontational than American ones. In its downtown Montreal studios overlooking the St. Lawrence River, CNAR also conceals its Canadian identity. The company's website lists its president, Jean Charest, among them. Nonetheless, the animated version of the classic children's movies about a Puritan schoolboy, and *The Bear*, *David of Ardmore* Sunday, which are on Nickelodeon in the United States and the Family Channel in Canada, American licensing studio, *Universal Licensing Productions Inc.*, has followed a similar path with such productions as two animated TV specials based on the comic strip of the hugely popular syndicated comic strip, *Beetle Bailey*, or *Blondie*.

There have been exceptions to the prevailing racism. In Van cover, a handful of snail Mailbox have made names for themselves by working the fringes of assumed responsibility, sometimes by pushing its gross-to-into to the limit. Cartoonist Gary Larson sought out the city's International Nodderby Productions to make a series of specials based on his Fall 1984 strip, "The Nodderby," the proprietor of a small, one-roomed shop on the cult class's Bayview North Gables—the definitive 1980-second statement about racism and its ally. Another would War Coast called a.k.a. Cartoonist, signed a co-production agreement in April with Gorman partners for a series based on a self-styled, infelicitous character named Lupo. The last series from a.k.a. Cartoonist, 1985's The Nodderby Group, was so replete that MTV, the U.S. music network where the satirical *Arrested* and *Half-Face* were broadcast, bought his

IN 1971, there was no animation industry

CINAR president Samiul Wernberg: "We have never done a production that was intended for one market only." Adds RBT president—and *It's Not About a Boy* producer—Christopher Brough: "Canadian animation may be accepted around the world because it's far less intrusive. I don't think you've going to get a lot of people *hating* *SD* live."

What Canada's leading cartoon factories have also discovered is a secret that Disney learned long ago: animated productions

## COVER

and not to show their age as quickly as live-action shows, extending the production value of archived material almost to infinity. As Charney puts it, animation "has a long shelf life."

That is evident in Disney's sprawling production campus in Burbank. Images from the entertainment giant's 75-year history proliferate, from the Mickey Mouse top as young Dopey Dime to the seven-generation concrete dinosaurs that support the facade of the Disney narrative offices. A huge blue cone—modeled on Mickey's hat in "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" from the 1940 classic *Fantasia*—identifies the entrance to Disney's feature animation studio. The eleven-story white walls of the building's east tower, most of the 800 people turning out Disney's track are seated in the tiered balconies for the cramped space like the one occupied by Mike Sweeney, A senior animator on last year's *The Lion King* and this year's *Rescuers Down Under*, who joined Disney six years ago after stints with studios in Long Island, N.Y., and London, is typical of Canadian artists who have discovered the nation's market for their skills.

## A TRADITION OF INNOVATION

Whether it is the moving drama of a child-abuse scandal (*The Boys of St. Vincent*), a controversial documentary about the 1990 GAO spring (Kinoshake: 270 Years of Kinship) or some animated whimsy about evolution (*How Dinosaurs Learned to Fly*), a short currently airing in Famous Players Theatres across Canada, the National Film Board has always been distinguished by eclecticism. Established in 1939 to make wartime propaganda films, the NFB soon branched out into animation. It hired the Scottish-born Norman McLaren in 1941—for \$40 a week and a bed at the YMCA, as legend has



McLaren's Smith (left) wrote the first *Simpsons* script. In center: *Simpsons* character.

Still, many Canadian animators in Wall's magic shop admit that they would happily turn their backs on Southern California's beaches, palm trees and social decay. "If you gave them the chance to go back and do what they do here," says Burns, "that would go back in a heartbeat. I'd get my parks and my snowshoes and, boom, I'd be gone."

That option may become reality for a growing number of ex-

"Mike Goodrich," he says, "have worked in about three countries." Like Sweeney—who drew *The Lion King*'s merest character, Timon, and oversaw animation of a central character named Chibi for *Aladdin*—many are alumni of the highly respected Sheridan program. Demanded for graduates is no strong among U.S. and international studios, in fact, that many students receive offers of jobs with starting salaries of \$40,000 to \$50,000, plus signing bonuses, as much as a year before they receive their diplomas. Top animators with experience—especially in the exploding field of computer animation—can command up to 30 times as much. Says Sweeney, another Sheridan alumnus, "It's crazy out there."

With Canadian animators with Disney's deadline to establish new production studios in Toronto and Vancouver. In part, the Burbank company's move reflects an increased dependence on Canada as a source of production talent. "A substantial number of creative people don't want to leave Canada," senior Disney television animation executive Tom Sito says, and when the company announced its Canadian plans late last year, "We," he added, "were coming to them." Among the 9,000 people who have since applied for the 225 new jobs in the studios, confirms Lenora Harris, the University of Waterloo graduate who is Disney's vice-president of international animation production, are "lots of Canadians who want to go back."

The lucky few who do land jobs in Disney's new Toronto and Vancouver branch plants will have to settle for less glamorous work than the epic features that occupy Sweeney. At least initially, the firm's Canada, as a studio will produce mainly sequels to big-screen blockbusters, comparatively low-budget productions aimed at the burgeoning direct-to-video video market. Disney's first Toronto-based Canadian project director, Andrew Knight, was back in Burbank

AL's thought: Relief (though a computer-generated cartoon new scene in 47 countries).



Canada's City TV, Showtime in the United States and Reliance's B-Sky B network sold \$12 million.

What sets the \$12-million Canadian-German coproduction apart, however, is its on-off production but its massive use of computer graphics. As much as 75 per cent of the content of every shot for the show is being created inside C.O.R.E. Digital's banks of graphics workstations at locations in Halifax, Toronto and Berlin. That compares with about 30 per cent of

## Changing the way Hollywood makes pictures

last week to get senior management's blessing on creative plans for his unit's first assignment, Christmas Bells, a musical sequel to 1991's *Beauty and the Beast*.

It is a long way from sunny Southern California to the snow-covered Halifax. But another kind of animation history was made earlier this year on the Nova Scotia capital's industrial waterfront. A cavernous grey building had been transformed into a soundstage for filming what its producers at local Silver Street Films Ltd. say is the most ambitious blend of live-action and computer-generated animation ever attempted for television. *LOOSE: The Dark Zone Stories* is a series of three episodes between *Star Trek* and *Alvin* in which three misanthropic adventures travel through space in a Winnebago, a two-wheeled, genetically modified moth-shaped spaceship. It is a series of four two-hour episodes. The first of

Apple II's action, and less than 10 per cent of the visuals in the of facta-heavy series *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*.

The production would not have been possible without the star using new capabilities of computer-driven animation. Welding powerful graphics software, the designers can use digitally modelled and animated virtually any scene they can dream up, and then render the results on-screen with conventional photography. The results can be dramatic—Disney-style talking dragons—or seamlessly realistic, as in Gary Shiner's "rising" lower lips in *Forest Gump*. What most of the dazzling new effects share is a roots in commercial software written by Canadian companies like Avid, Montreal's Softimage Inc. and Vancouver's Light & Magic, or Vancouver's Trianga Technology Inc. But the most significant players in computer graphics that are not Canadian-based.

Their achievements have made several Canadian software exporters but also their targets. In early 1994, Seattle software giant



The NFB's Bob's Birthday story. The Sweeney and the Big Six characters from an animation under stage.

high and French studios. Fourteen new English-language shorts are scheduled for a new *Bob's* series, called *Short Animated Canadian*, beginning in late August—evidence that the growth of specialty channels has provided much-needed exposure. Thirty animators—10 full-time staffers and 20 contract employees—work in the English animation studio. Their projects range from an unexpectedly amusing lesson on the dangers of lead poisoning in the home, to a winter refueling from a bad case of the flu. And the film-makers use a variety of media—

drawing and painting, wax crayon on glass, puppets, fabric and Plastiline. Most use specialized computer software at some stage of production, and a few use totally computer-generated images. The board introduced the first computer-controlled and speeded animation system in 1988.

With the closure of similar organizations in other countries, the board has become a haven for non-commercial animators. One of them is Shal-ba Wang, a 35-year-old former instructor at B.C.'s Academy of Fine Arts and online Red Guard. Accomplished in traditional Chinese ink painting, Wang incorporated all those media into an animated, semi-abstract, semi-abstract narrative of recent Chinese history. "I use the small details," says Wang, "to tell a larger story." And that, in a nutshell, is what keeps the NFB's animation resources occupied.

Microsoft Corp. paid \$475 million to acquire Softimage. A year later, Silicon Graphics Inc., which builds workstation for computer animation, spent \$440 million to buy Alias.

As dramatically as the new Canadian software technology is changing what animators see, it is also lifting the reputation of comic and TV production in larger of transfer producers. "Seeing this [the marketplace], says C.O.R.E.'s Minister of LEAD, "you couldn't have done in Halifax two years ago. You couldn't have done it anywhere in the world five years ago." Now, with the price of a low-end computer-graphics workstation and associated software about that of a new Mercedes-Benz sedan, Maurice notes, "you don't have to be Hollywood and you don't have to have hundreds of millions. The technology will be very liberating."

Or not. "It is quite terrifying," says writer Tim Cruise told a symposium on actors' rights two years ago. What alarmed Cruise is the sense that has inspired Burgess: the replication of human actors in the same computers that now spit out convincing replicas and success. The fear is not just possible. Only recently have programmers succeeded in creating life-like, fully realistic human skin, and even realistically breathing, remains elusive. But Alias has contracted more than 100 software engineers to an ambitious attempt, called Project Magma, to breathe life into the first cyberhuman. Further to the future, Burgess promises that computer animators will be able to "cast" long-legged stars in new work.



His workspace at ILM is a windowless, basement-level studio the size of a family recreation room. Reclined "The Pit," it is adorned with a large Canadian flag, a hockey stick and Maple Leafs pennant, and a poster of Doc Cherry that glares down at Williams while he works.

Born in Toronto, Williams studied animation at nearby Sheridan College. He went on to work at Toronto's groundbreaking Alias before being lured to ILM. Williams, who has a seven-month-old daughter, recently oversaw the computer

Williams' age isn't quite enough to make a difference here

"Somewhere," says Alias's president, "there is a movie that some director is thinking about that Humphrey Bogart should play in. And he will be able to do it. And everyone is crushed about the possibility of this. Bogart's legacy is dead," declares Peter's Reeves. "And Bogart's bones in what was crying."

The visual imagery that any best captures the state of Canada's animation industry can be found in Vancouver. There, three floors above a shuttered Pioneer National Film Board office—closed last year in the wake of federal cutbacks—where 60 animators saw weekly episodes of Redford out of battle of high-powered computers. Set in a community called Mainframe within an intricate computer, Alias's stunning graphic effects and very references to the rest of pop culture made it an instant hit when it first aired on ABC in 1994. Although ABC decided to drop the show following the first season, Alias's success in the U.S. network in late 1995, international sales ensure its continuing production. And with more than 200 hours of animation already in the can, Alias' production through claims to have created "more computer-generated images than all of the computer companies in the world."

Whether or not that boast is true, Brough's ILM Productions and its Toronto distribution partner, Alliance Communications Corp., have successfully linked animation to a new level of artistic and commercial—controversy. With audiences appearing eager for more computer-generated adventures, the two partners last month announced the release of a second series, *Reboot Blue*, based on characters that transform from animal shape into powerful robots. Merchandise based on characters from both series is also in the works—aided by the fact that ILM's computer-generated characters can be replicated in plastic by a computer-controlled manufacturing equipment with astonishing ease.

Back in Toronto, Nelvana's founders insist that computer art can

or special effects for the Arnold Schwarzenegger movie *Eraser*, sporting stunts Canada's first week.

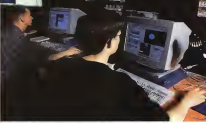
Williams believes that computer-generated actors are "irrevocable." We have digital about doubles now. The guy you bought it with the toilet seat in *Jurassic Park* didn't exist. But he won't be with us on an actual action. "It's a weapon. You could have the U.S. president giving a speech—who had been dead for five years. You think about moral implications here—usually too late."

CHRIS WOOD in San Rafael

tion poses no threat to the more traditional forms that have earned Canadian studios to their present prominence over the past 25 years. "They don't cancel each other out," notes Hink. Indeed, Nelvana is well into the creation of a new animated television series—using conventional techniques. Pappi Lagoon, a co-production with Swedish and German partners based on Swedish author Astrid Lindgrén's spunky character of the same name, is slated for release next year. Pappi, explains Nelvana's Smith, "is a tremendous character for today. She's a strong female character—which we are short of in this business."

It is about the only character that Canadian animators are likely to admit to. But it pitches up an exhilarating—and somewhat controversial—rush into the dazzling new developments in animation technique. Novel computer-generated "whatshifs" may grab necessary attention, admits Brough, "but the timeless glue is the strength of a story." Happily for Canadian cartoon creators of every stripe, the studios they are being coaxed to explore limits and uncertainties around the world.

WITH JANE TURKILL in Montreal



Sheridan animation class: 'people are dropping out all the time because of the workload'

## The making of a 'toon college

It looks much like any other community college, a low, sprawling complex of utilitarian concrete buildings accented with durable blue and brown steel siding. The casually dressed young men and women who drift through the halls and visit over coffee are enrolled in programs that reflect the range of northern Ontario's job market: health care, pollution technology, law enforcement—and how to turn simple print drawings into moments of pure magic. The last is not quite so out of place as it might seem. For this suburban campus in Oshawa, half an hour by commuter train and bus west of downtown Toronto, is the unimpressive house of Sheridan College, one of North America's most highly regarded schools of classical and computer animation. In a palm-tree hot new field of a touch of ban, James Strauss, the Torontoian who created the digital life characters for this summer's movie *Droopy*, calls his alma mater simply "The best animation school in the world."

If that is a stretch, it is only a small one. Twenty-eight years after Sheridan offered its first animation class, *Blackhawk* of Notre Dame producer Don Halls leads its graduates as "among the best." Adds the Disney executive, whose animation crew of 30 for *Blackhawk* included a dozen Sheridan alumni: "We can't afford not to use your talent." The school's two generations of graduates, meanwhile, have been the main creators responsible for transforming an erasable artifice because defied by the National Film Board into an industry with an output that is seen around the world. "Sheridan pumped out the students," observes Michael Hirsh, chairman of Toronto's Nelvana Ltd., Canada's largest animation studio, "and the media created the industry."

No one would have predicted such a scenario in 1968, the year

that Sheridan's founding president, Jack Parker, organized its first course in classical animation. At the time, there was little evidence of demand for its graduates. Outside the NFL, a Canadian cartoon industry did not exist. "After he had what he did, I don't know," says Sheridan's current dean of art, Don Gerwin, who taught acting techniques to some of Sheridan's students. "Parker was a visionary." Other attention launched by Sheridan's now defunct founder have also endured, evident in one of the last out-of-control live-action programs in North America, with 3,600 full-time students enrolled in 18 programs.

It is in the faculty's efforts to give its animation that Sheridan has made its deepest impression. Each year, it receives 2,500 applications for the 150 entry places in its core, four-year classical animation program. Half of the students find the program's demands too great. "It is really intense," says 25-year-old second-year student Breanna White. "You're pulling all-nighters all the time, people are dropping out and taking breaks out of school, and that those who persevere to graduation, or who carry on through a co-op or diploma course in computer animation, are well rewarded. Competition for Sheridan graduates is at least as intense as the demands upon them. Each year, between 35 and 40 animators graduate and apply for positions at Sheridan's open houses to view demo reels and assess candidates for hire. "If you are capable of doing computer graphics for film and you're a graduate of Sheridan College," says Paul Donovan of Halifax-based Silver Street Films, "you will be offered a \$50,000-to-\$75,000-a-year job—six to ten years before you graduate."

Fame should help Sheridan's animation program, launched in an era when Ontario's economy and its government was in a more anxious mood, survive the broader climate of the '90s. In a step that reflects demand for Sheridan's courses as well as falling provincial subsidies, the school has raised its freshman tuition for animation students to \$1,358, from \$800 last year. At that, Sheridan offers a bargain in contrast to the U.S. school with which it is most frequently compared, the California Institute of Arts in Los Angeles, where a year's tuition can cost more than \$25,000.

Kept by a growing network of partnerships with leading computer studios, including Disney, the college plans next year to add 25 places to its classical animation program and 30 to its single-subject computer or animation program, first introduced in 1980. Ironically, though, its own success may limit Sheridan's ability to expand. With experienced animators commanding six-figure salaries in the fast-growing Canadian cartoon industry, Wayne Gilbert, Sheridan's senior animation professor, worries. "If the school were to add numbers, I don't know that we could find faculty."

Things have certainly changed from the early days, when Sheridan had instructors—but no one lined up to hire its graduates. That the situation is now the reverse testifies to Parker's early vision, and to the enduring appeal of celluloid magic.

CHRIS WOOD in Oakville



Students at a Toronto employment centre: a pressing need to rethink student aid

## Borrowing to learn

The coffee and doughnuts were free, the staff was friendly and the bulletin gave a better look to the recent open house at the Canada Employment Centre for Students in Toronto's east end. But they did little to take the spirits of York University students Peter Bologh and Jeremy Gaudin. Doughty, 24, a fourth-year mass communications and English major, was told seeking assistance to his tuition situation in February. He had hoped to snag a "lower-credited job" for the summer, but now he is willing to take anything. In the previous four weeks, Cooze, 26, had faced 40 resumés to potential employers, and he was starting to worry that he might spend the summer of 1996 without a job. The second-year biology science major had reason to be afraid: last summer's student unemployment rate hit a dismal 15.9 per cent, up from 9.5 per cent in 1990. Meanwhile, both Cooze and Doughty are bracing for a whopping increase in the price of tuition: this September, they will stand up \$5 per cent in Ontario to roughly \$3,000, and by as much as one per cent in other provinces. "I have about \$25,000 in loans now and I will have to take another loan in September," says Doughty. "It's scary."

In an era when outlays are swelling faster with both university budgets and

general employment, students across the country are discovering that the fine art of financial survival is one of the most critical lessons to be learned on the way to a degree. In the past decade, average undergraduate tuition has more than doubled at Canadian universities. And through two provinces—British Columbia and Quebec—have frozen fees for the current school year, university administrators

in both areas that they will continue to pressure their governments to give them the green light for future increases. Last month, officials at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver attempted to raise \$8 million through what it called "special fees," with a purpose to increase student aid and to improve teaching facilities. The government immediately vetoed the plan. "If you wish to maintain the quality of the

### LURING THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST

As universities win the right to charge more for tuition, they are also vying to lure the best and brightest students with generous new scholarships. One beneficiary of that competitive atmosphere is 17-year-old Vienna Sologar of Red Deer, Alta., who learned in a recent telephone call from University of Alberta president Rod Fraser that she won a \$25,000 four-year scholarship to study engineering this fall—part of a new \$550,000 package of entrance scholarships being awarded by the Edmonton University. Sologar, who has a 99.4 per cent average, turned down scholarships that were roughly half as generous from both the University of Toronto and Montreal University. "I'm happy and relieved," says Sologar. "Without this schol-

arship, I would have had to borrow from my parents, work through school and still owe student loans." Alberta is not the only university courting the country's most accomplished students. Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., which now offers nine prestigious Chancellor Scholarships, worth \$24,000 over four years, will be topping that number to 40 next year. "The very best students get a lot of offers and we want to assure that we don't attract second best," says Queen's principal William Leggett. Other universities are beginning to offer a range of new modest awards. Starting this fall, Dalhousie University in Halifax will give \$1,000 to first-year students with an

university system, you have to increase tuition," says Bernard Shapiro, principal of McGill University. "Most of us want to do it what you do when you want to ensure medication."

That attitude has many students worried. In the 1994-1995 school year, the most recent for which figures are available, Canadian university and college students collectively borrowed roughly \$2.5 billion to finance their educations—more than double the amount of five years earlier. Asks Alex Osher, the national director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, "How much do we expect students to go into debt to pay for a degree? This system is dividing the rich from the poor even further."

To help calm such fears, many governments and universities have been scrambling to introduce a patchwork of assistance programs. Ontario is requiring all universities to devote 30 per cent of this year's tuition fee increase to student aid. As a result, the University of Western Ontario in London, for example, will give \$2.2 million into an existing work-study program to provide 1,000 new part-time campus jobs.

In Newfoundland, the Student Work and Service Program is offering students \$50 a week to work at a charitable or nonprofit organization of their choice this summer. If students complete eight full weeks of work, they will also receive a \$1,800 tuition voucher or refundable scholarship in Canada. British Columbia now awards high-achieving students one point for every year their grades reach the top 30 per cent of their class. Upon graduation, they can exchange their points for up to \$800 in tuition vouchers.

Still, many observers say there is a price



tag needed to rethink student aid on a much broader level—and to address the thorny issue of how graduates will repay what are threatening to become staggering debt loads. Critics maintain that current government loan plans make it difficult for many needy students to obtain help, and insist onerous and unrealistic conditions of repayment. They argue that the entire thrust of a controversial scheme known as Income Contingent Repayment (ICR) was on the verge of being adopted when the federal government suggested it as part of proposed changes to the Canada Student Loan Program. Such a plan would make loan holders pay back only when they are finally employed. In turn, the pace of repayment would be linked to a graduate's in-

come. Ontario will be intense. Fully 57 per cent of all Canadian student loans are in Ontario, students figure that Gerry Goody, policy chief of the Canada Student Loans Program, says is "obviously a consideration" in current discussions about ICR at the federal level.

That spectre has many students bracing the worst. They claim that the entire thrust towards significantly higher tuition—and earlier borrowing—is wage-slashed and dishonest. "A government that has declared debt bad and said that there is no money in the coffers is turning around and legislating terms of thousands of Canadians," says Brad Lavigne, chairman of the Canadian Federation of Students. "It's a bit hypocritical."

## As tuition climbs, students brace for a high-debt future

Lavigne and other critics of ICR can take some comfort in the fact that, for all its influence, Ontario remains the only province that seems to be looking much a piece. In fact, Alberta and New Brunswick have explicitly rejected the notion. Predicting that large student debts will lead to high levels of default, Fred Sheringway, chief executive officer of the Alberta Students Finance Board, which administers the student aid program in Alberta, says that the scheme "is not fiscally responsible in the long term."

Still, as the cost of postsecondary education continues to climb, students such as Cooze are bracing for a future that will include significant debt. Facing three years of undergraduate studies and two of teachers' college, Cooze estimates that he will have to borrow at least \$20,000 to finance his education. "I hate the idea of having loans," says Cooze. "I don't like owing money to my parents or the bank." That he has to be. But at a time when universities are so cash-strapped as their students, learning to borrow—and borrowing to learn—are fast becoming requirements of graduation.

SANDRA FURMAN

average entering grade of 90 per cent or higher. At Ontario University of Windsor, new students with at least 80 per cent will receive a \$1,000 reduction in the cost of residence.

Not all new initiatives are generated by the universities themselves. This week, the privately funded Cambridge Canadian Trust will announce four new scholarships, sending two undergraduates and two graduate students to Cambridge University in England. The first winners, to be awarded \$20,000 over three years, will be announced in December.

Meanwhile, earlier this month, 21 students were awarded the new Canada Trust Scholarship for Outstanding Community Leadership, receiving their awards

from Governor General Ramo LaBianca in a ceremony at Government House in Ottawa. Each won four years tuition, a \$3,500 annual award and a number of summer employment at Government House. The four-year winners, one recipient, Jean Walker, 18, of Victoria, has volunteered thousands of hours at a local hospital, the municipal government and St. John Ambulance. Although Walker says that he undertook such work for "the medical rewards," the scholarship insists that he can stop working about how to pay his education—and devote his attention to deciding among the University of Victoria, Montreal's McGill University and McMaster University in Hamilton as places to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor. For Walker and Walker, the ball is in their court.

Walker (left), LaBianca awarding the governor



# How to predict the future.

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## Sports



Scam celebrating mixed emotions in Quebec

can about hockey taking root in the South. "We did all along that if we could get people in the buildings," said NHL commissioner Gary Bettman, releasing by a race-made waterball at a Miami Beach hotel. "The game would sell itself."

The Stanley Cup final was a sporting success as well. The Panthers played with heart and courage, although they could not match the talent of the Avalanche, a team that, with the exception of the thuggish Claude Lemieux, embodies the best attributes of hockey. While Colorado won the best-of-seven games series in four straight, three of those games were decided by a single goal. And for more than five periods last week, the Cup-clinching game produced edge-of-the-seat excitement. Avalanche goaltender Patrick Roy turned away 60 Panther shots. At the other end, Yankelievich—known to his fans as Beamer—played the game of his life, rubbing successive Avalanche attackers of more panicked Krupp's seamy-eye winner.

The Avalanche were welcomed home with a parade through downtown Denver and a phone call from President Bill Clinton. Roy and captain Joe Sakic, the series' most valuable player, were invited to appear on several live-night U.S. talk shows. But Denver's triumph stirred up mixed emotions in Quebec City where, as the Nordiques' last season, the team never came close to a championship. At La Cage aux Sports bar in suburban Charlevoix, fans watching on big-screen TVs intermittently cheered "Go Avalanche go." When the game finally ended, waitress Marie-Josée Gagné, 38, had tears in her eyes. "I'm happy for the people in Quebec," she said. "But I'm proud of what's happened to us." Landscaper Jean Frenette, 36, concurred. "It doesn't hurt to see them win," he said. "It hurts to have lost them."

The NHL has a long way to go before catching up to the other big sports in America. U.S. television ratings for the National Basketball Association finale between Chicago and Seattle were three times higher than the NHL's. But hockey is making up arrears, particularly in the Southeast. Tampa was first in the league to announce this season. Anaheim is the league's most profitable team. Phoenix has sold more than 10,000 season tickets for the yet-to-arrive Coyotes. Given their first look

at Stanley Cup action, Panthers supporters claim they have become fans for life. "I haven't seen anything like this ever in this city," said Mike Liem, a 6-year-old Miami policeman who attended the Cup final game last week. "But I'm telling you, I'm hooked." It must be the heat.

JAMES DEACON is a Miami and New York City writer for the Miami Herald.

## A moment in the sun

Everyone was there—it was, after all, 3:06 a.m., and most of the fans at Miami Arena had been yelling themselves hoarse for nearly six hours. It was not long, however, that suddenly silence took hold as thousands of supporters of the Florida Panthers. It was Dave Krupp's seemingly harmless shot from the blue-line that slipped by Florida's heroic netminder John Vanbiesbroeck, giving the Colorado Avalanche the Stanley Cup and ending the underdog Panthers and their dream from their improbable dream. But in Anaheim players swarmed the ice in celebration, a nighty chant of "Let's go Pan them!" swelled out of the stands, as loud as the cheer that greeted the players when they took to the ice five hours before. After a night of electrifying excitement—and an entire season of overachievement—the fans did what their Panthers had done: they gave it all they had. Rafael Sanz, a recent hockey convert, summed up the prevailing sentiment. "Victory is defeat," Sanz said, holding his hands out as if he were placing the words in a movie-house marquee. "Cause that's what it is, man. Victory is defeat."

Denver versus Miami may not have looked like a disparate matchup, but it sealed the National Hockey League just fine. The Avalanche victory consolidated hockey's hold on the newest NHL city. Denver And Miami's worst enemies of the Panthers defied critics who claimed that pain trees and ice would never mix. The NHL had been hearing those claims since it filed its map southward five years ago, adding expansion teams in San Jose, Anaheim, Tampa and Montreal, and relocating existing franchises to Dallas (from Minneapolis), Denver (from Quebec City) and, starting this fall, Phoenix (from Pittsburgh). The new club helped the league was a five-year, \$121-million U.S. network TV contract with Fox Broadcasting Co.—and produced a \$-mill behind two rebroadcasting newcomers.

South Floridians greeted each Panther goal with a barrage of phone rans, a tradition that developed after winger Scott McLeish killed a live pit in the dressing room before the season opener and then potted two goals. Panther fever melted any slumps

Can the NHL keep scoring in the South?



# George Bain

## Conrad Black and the benefit of the doubt

I don't know Conrad Black, have never met him, have never spoken to him by phone. I have read some, not a lot, of what he has written, and have agreed with some and disagreed with some, which is about par for the course. I know he has said some infuriating things about Canadian journalists, but, then, so have a lot of people, including this one. Something I am prepared to assume is that he has not made himself the owner of more newspapers in Canada than anyone else for the purpose of running them into the ground. Therefore, I don't think he's nuts.

What all that amounts to is a reminder, way of saying he would need to be at least a bit stupid—or would the reader—of much of the intensely vitriolic media commentary on his recent newspaper acquisitions, and what may flow from them, were taken seriously. Consider, for just one point, the suggestion that, with Black now having 41 per cent of the stock in Southern Inc. and having, as well, declared his intention of raising that to 50 per cent and beyond to solidify his control, his first step will be to change the content of Southern newspapers, which include 30 dailies, among them some of the largest outside Toronto, by laying off a lot of employees.

Newspapers have long been a cyclical business—readership and advertising sales up in good times, down in bad. However, in the past 20 years or so, the tendency after a recession has been for circulation and ad revenues to not quite reach the level they had attained during the last term of the cycle.

Obviously the quality of what a newspaper offers its readers is not rarely governed by the number of persons employed to produce it. However, in circumstances of continuing gradual stagnation in readership—circulation is, if at all, keeping pace with population growth, and ad revenues declining—being off and with the sole objective of improving the balance sheet today makes an unlikely way to prevent a massive investment for the long term. People tend to notice.

If proportionately fewer people are reading newspapers in 1996 than they were doing so in, say, 1956, and if fewer advertisers are advertising because they want to reach more people, not fewer, it would seem the time for Conrad Black to do—and he says he intends to do it—is to make the product better.

But we have been through all this before, squinting over our contrivance of ownership in the newspaper business, and the disastrous effect there must be on public knowledge if the dissemination of fact and opinion is in ever-fewer and fewer sets of hands. (Curiously, we don't worry the same way about broadcast media. The CBC operates in both television and radio, in both languages, in both broadcast and cable, and in local and national spheres, and reaches far more Canadians than all the newspapers combined.)

We are now in our third such great national inquiry. The first two were formal, led by a Senate Special Committee on Mass Media (mainly newspapers) in 1968-1970, and by a royal commission on media in 1989-1991. Now, we have an informal journalistic inquiry over transparency in editorial and its inherent role—the lack of diversity in interpretation of events and of opinion for readers to consider.

The two formal inquiries, 20 and 25 years ago, took these risks very seriously and proposed steps needing to be taken to ensure they wouldn't be repeated. The first words of the forward in the 1991 royal commission report were: "This commission was born of shock and trauma. Simultaneously, in Ottawa and Winnipeg, two old and respected newspapers died." Dramatic stuff, that.

Nevertheless, the reports of both those formal inquiries were received, read, considered—and that was that. Nothing came of the reports except that they went on to library shelves.

There was a distinct lessening of viewpoints in the newspaper reporting and commentary on our national government in the Mulroney years, and a consistent uniformity of view must certainly have played a large part in the 1993 federal election and the near-death of—in borrow a description—"an old and respected" political party. But that uniformity was not imposed by some wicked concentration of ownership, it sprang from reporters in the Parliamentary press gallery in the grip of groupthink.

(That may have been corroborated in the mind of Willem Thorstell, editor-in-chief of *The Globe and Mail*, when he began a recent Sunday column with, "Conrad Black isn't that important when it comes to the state of newspapers." The column ran under the heading, "Reporters and editors, more than others, determine a paper's quality.")

As the *Globe* would also know, it is not necessarily true that a newspaper will be dragged downhill once at the entrance of a large newspaper chain with a reputation more for thrift than for its dedication to getting and publishing the news. *The Globe* was one of Canada's best newspapers when it was taken over by Thomson Newspapers in 1986; it is now widely accepted as the best. The Southern dailies, on the other hand, have seemed to wobble along a new direction. Certainly there will be change now. It would be no surprise to see the group become more integrated, as a network, using in common more of the chain's collective news-gathering capabilities, as one corporate news service supplies the various news and public affairs entities within the CBC with broad-based coverage of national and international affairs events, and inner-city and even local stories. It would not necessarily follow that the 30 dailies would be used as a standing multi-trumpet chorus to the glory of Conrad Black's thought.

I don't think he's ... But, I've already said that.



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# People

Edited by  
TOM FENNEL



Lynn, her father was leading the choir

## Taking Tommy home to Winnipeg

Jennifer Lynn also earned standing ovations during the week opens Tommy's memoirs in Toronto last year. But the curtain call in Winnipeg following last week's opening performance of the show's cross-country tour was especially poignant. Not only had the 36-year-old singer, who plays Tommy's mother, Mrs. Wilson, just performed before a home-town audience, but her father was there leading the choir. "I'm privileged," beamed the delighted dad, Sterling Lynn, Manitoba's premier from 1977 to 1981 and now a judge on the Manitoba Court of Appeal. "I thought she did awfully well." Playing the lead female role in the 90-minute extravaganza in front of her family and friends was a special experience for Jennifer Lynn. "This city has such a fine theatre tradition," she said. "I'm really proud of being from Winnipeg." It appears to be reciprocal.

## Hanging up their microphones

It was one of those weeks at Standard Radio Inc. First, broadcaster Melanie King announced that she was stepping down after 15 years with Standard's Montreal station, CHA—inclinging the last three hours as popstar Dr. Toyne morning talk show. Explained King, 42, who is moving to Australia with her husband, record producer Sergio Larroca, and their two children: "We want to have a family adventure." Quebec's political

## Words on the street

Blues wunderkind Tony Rich is only 24, but he is already being compared to some of the greats. Little wonder: The Detroit native turned Atlanta resident not only wrote and sang every song on his top-selling debut, *Words*, he also played guitar, keyboard, percussion, harmonica and bass on the newly released album. Rich is also pleased that *Words*, featuring the Top 30 hit Nobody Knows, quickly crossed over from rhythm and blues to the pop charts. "I never wanted to be an R & B act in the first place," insists Rich, who plays acoustic guitar on the song. "People need to understand that pop means popular. It can be country, R & B, disco—anything." Although he



Rich, comparisons with Stevie Wonder

has already enjoyed a high-profile appearance on the Grammy Awards and is being compared to Stevie Wonder, Rich says, he is more concerned about perfecting his craft than collecting his press clippings. "If you start celebrating all the time," says Rich, "you begin believing you're a genius or something."

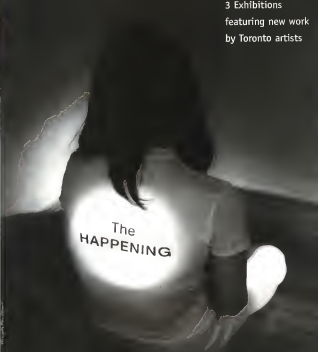
## In an exclusive club

On New Year's Eve, 1993, Eric Wilson stood at the top of Vancouver's Grouse Mountain, staring at the fireworks and contemplating his future. "I thought, 'I have to start now,'" recalls Wilson, then a 29-year-old Grade 8 teacher. The next day he began writing his first book for kids—"and I have never stopped." Wilson has written 19 books since he gave up his job teaching "reluctant readers," and his young fans—most aged 8 to 14—are hardly hesitant. Now Wilson, 35, whose books include *The Prairie Dog Conspiracy* and *The Green Gables Detectives*, has joined the tiny, exclusive club of authors, including Margaret Atwood, Pierre Berton and Robert Munsch, who have sold more than a million books in Canada. "I write like a dad would write for his kids," says the author, who has no children. "Stuff about life and how the system works, that I'd like them to know."



Wilson: the million-plus books

uncertainties also played a role in their decision to try life elsewhere, she confessed. Then at Standard's flagship station, Toronto's CFMT, the grand doyenne of Canadian radio, 73-year-old Wally Crowder, said he will be hanging up his mike in November after a record 50 years hosting a rag-mixed morning show. But he is shedding no tears. Said Crowder, who gets up at 4 a.m. for his job: "It will be relaxing not having to meet a daily deadline." Believed for him, maybe, but not for the bosses at Toronto-based Standard Radio, who now have two large chairs to fill.



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Broderick (left), Carrey, and comedian guest further out on a zany last line before

## A 100-channel psycho

Jim Carrey's mayhem gets a disturbing edge

THE CABLE GUY  
Directed by Ben Stiller

It looks like a prime example of Hollywood lunacy. Introduced by the man that made Waterworld, this is the movie for which Canadian superstar Jim Carrey became the first actor to receive a \$20-million (\$7.5) paycheck. But to his credit, Carrey responds to the pressure by going further out on a limb than ever before. After the crowd-pleasing antics of *Dumb and Dumber* and his *For the Win* movies, *The Cable Guy* marks an adventurous departure. Sure, in the title role he plays another cynical, over-the-top, wild and crazy guy. But for once he is not a lovable goof. He is a rather unattractive psychotic. And the movie itself is not pure farce. It is satire, with a disturbing edge.

Serving as Carrey's straight man, the ironically hapless Matthew Broderick plays Steven, who has just broken up with his girlfriend and moved into a new apartment. Nervously, he often finds the cable installer a bribe for free pay checks. And that begins a nightmarish co-dependency. The pathologically lonely Cable Guy has no friends, just grateful customers like the nerdy Steven to be his best friend, immediately—and soon become the buddy from hell.

Carrey performs the whole movie with a deadpan lip. Although it is more a speech impediment than an affectation, it injects a weirdly gay subtext into the Cable Guy's lonely craving that a never explicitly addressed. But then, Carrey's whole style is a kind of outrageous camp. And he indulges his penchant for music caricature in a number of set pieces, including a medieval dance

outing tournament, some sadistic basket ball playing—and a priceless incoherent version of the Jefferson Airplane's *Sunflower* in *Love*, which Carrey sings with a banister vibrato that sounds like Grace Slick on acid. Eclectic, not.

Unlike Carrey's previous vehicles, however, the movie has some wins. *The Cable Guy* is an orphan of the television age, a neglected child who has grown up with the video box as his foster parent. And for him, his Americanized, the scolding lives between TV and reality have become comically blurred. The movie also alludes to the sinister implications of the information superhighway: the deal with the Cable Guy is just a three-step upgrade of the classic Faustian pact with devil.

Firing against a backdrop of constant channel-surf, Ben Stiller—who made *And So I Run* and starred in the recent hit *Flirting with Disaster*—directs with a playful wit. Carrey's angular grunting style sometimes seems at odds with Stiller's sit direction, and the hapless plot patches in and out of Hollywood formula. Still, this is the first Jim Carrey comedy for grown-ups. In fact, without a single toilet joke, *The Cable Guy* may disappoint fans of *Dumb and Dumber*. It shows Carrey acting smart and smarter—as if a Woody Allen is pecking out from behind the Jerry Lewis mask, eager to roll the nerves of his generation.

IRVING D. JOHNSON

## Sanitizing a saucy heroine

MOLL FLEMING  
Directed by Ben Denham

The franchising of literary titles is getting out of hand. After last year's kind make-over of *The Scarlet Letter*, Hollywood has turned another literary classic and left the canvas behind. Like *The Scarlet Letter*, *Moll FLEMING* is the tale of a woman who defies the sexual morality of her day. But in this case, the film-makers are not even trying to represent the book. Ben Denham, the British-born Canadian who wrote and directed *Moll FLEMING*, says that while the film was "inspired" by Daniel Defoe's 1722 novel, he made up his own story from a variety of historical and fictional sources. The film, unlike *The Scarlet Letter*, is not ridiculous, it has a certain earnest integrity. But it is a synthetic construct—a romance, told that has little connection with any reality, contemporary or otherwise.

Defoe's *Moll* is a shrewd, cunning prostitute and thief who engages in sex, adultery and bigamy before eventually finding redemption. The movie's *Moll*, vainly portrayed by Robin Wright,



Wright (left), Cheever: no return

is just a victim. An orphan, she falls into the clutches of a devious madam (played with great relish by Stockard Channing), has a doomed romance with a struggling artist (Jeff Goldblum), and finally sails out on a sea of misery (Robert Forster). Unlike Defoe's rough-hewn heroine, however, she is boringly virtuous from beginning to end, which makes her redemption seem beside the point. Her movie takes *Moll*'s name, but molasses her spirit.

B.J.

## For the Record

## The safe and the daring

One artist repeats himself; others shine

10 TIL I DIE  
Byron Adams (MCA)

Byron Adams has a track record of producing magnificent albums that contain at least one roaring rock anthem, like a scorching, full-on ballad from a hit movie. And sure enough, 10 TIL I DIE—his one with studio release and the last since 1991's *Working Up to Nighttime*—offers one of such. The title track, like his *Summer of '66*, is an instant adult sing-along tune, a melodic ballad with a rock 'n' roll postlude glow and the baritone flavored *Blue You Are Really Love* a *Woman* 2, already a radio smash from last year's *Don Juan Delmas*, makes Adams' best ballads. Two other tracks stand out. The only thing that looks good on *Me & You*, a well-timed rocker in which the Vancouver millionaire, now 36, expresses his preference for his women to "Arnold" and "Gucci" shoes, and *I Wanna Be Your Underneath*, a saucy number apparently inspired by revelations about Prince Charles's second wife, Camilla. But the rest of the album is a hard, insipid love songs interspersed with workmanlike rock numbers. There is even a sports cheer, dedicated to a British soccer team, that pales badly next to *Queen's We Are the Champions*. Although he still knows how to punch the right button occasionally, Adams is mostly raring on automatic pilot.



Adams, a few good songs and workmanlike material

HIGH OR HURTIN'  
Dionne & the Roots (Jive)  
(True North/MCA)

Canadian singer-songwriters, one of the country's great natural resources, have recently been getting a kind of mass-market recognition. Younger musicians have been recording compositions by Gordon Lightfoot, Bruce Cockburn, Neil Young and Leonard Cohen; the latter three have been the subject of tribute albums. The latest to receive the tribute treatment is Peterborough, Ont. based Willie P. Bennett, 44, long one of Canada's singing musical heroes. *High or Hurtin'* a collection by Colin Linden, a strong future in an incredible soloist.



den, Dionne Wilson and Stephen Forster performing under the name Dionne & the Roots Kings, showcases Bennett's gifts as a composer of poignant, unflashingly honest songs, with such masses adding his own touch to the material. Wilson, best singer with the Harbourside band *Just Between Friends*, lends his gruff, blower power to *White Lies*, a heartbreaking ballad about the loss, while Vancouver's Forster sings *Love and Pretty Flowers*, a tender love song, with aching understatement. And Toronto's Lindgren, who also produced the album, offers a darker version of *Me & You* as *Love Dies*. Bennett's bitterness adds to a former lover. Highlighting 14 songs in all, *High or Hurtin'* is the kind of tribute that even richly deserves, memorial yet distinctive.

ON A WING AND A PRAYER  
Pamela Morgan (Shogun/Columbia)

Before there was the Italian Family or Dave Barry MacFadden, there was Newfoundland's Fluffy Duff. True pioneers, Fluffy Duff topped a unique brand of Celtic folk-rock in the 1970s that paved the way for Canada's current generation of Celtic music. Leading the group were drummer Noel Dineen and singer Pamela Morgan, who together wrote the band's original material, until Dineen died of cancer in 1982, at the age of 45. Morgan, 34, a resident of Toronto, Nfld., is now back with *On a Wing and a Prayer*, a reworking of old but that has echoes of Fluffy Duff's haunting wail and hints of a new direction for the group's former vocalist. Dineen's presence is left on four songs he wrote or co-wrote with Morgan. The best is the elegiac *One Heart*, a tune about love in which Dineen and Morgan sing in a duet over guitar and violin. Morgan provides the wholehearted accompaniment to a song that she wrote, the poignant *The Game*. But *Shogun* marks the singer's departure for the talented singer. Singing Celtic folk with jazz panache, the song suggests that Morgan has a strong future in an incredible soloist.

NICHOLAS JENNINGS

The Hip with Dionne (left), stressed out

innocent scenes of an ice rink being flooded at night with unattractive faces of pornography and religious fanaticism. Even quieter acoustic songs are oddly unsettling. *Golf-surf* lives up to its repeated lines "The beautiful kiki, the dangerous kiki," pulling the listener through a gentle breeze into a long rhythmic line. Dionne's enigmatic, metaphor laden lyrics and the band's edge performance suggest all is not well with the world. One of Canada's most creative bands, the Hip is pushing its own boundaries. And *Acoustic* at the *Rehearsal*, though often cryptic, is the compelling result.

N.A.





# Stewart MacLeod

## The curse of the baby boom generation

**F**unny, isn't it, how a country as obsessed with diversity and disunity—you know, French-Canadians, English-Canadians, Japanese-Canadians, Native-Canadians, Toronto-Canadians—refuses to confront the most disruptive, and perhaps divisive, patch in the entire Canadian social fabric?

Of course, we rail on relentlessly about the distinctiveness of Quebec Canadians, compensation for our wartime treatment of assorted apprehended Canadians—you name it—but when was the last time you heard anyone salivate a healthy, glowing curse at Boomer-Canadians? Lucky never. For some peculiar reason, this baby boom has managed to hijack our national agenda like no other identifiable minority.

OK, it's only fair to confess this deep and slumbering disdain for Boomers, those people lucky enough to be born between, say, 1946 and 1961, the years after young adult Canadians moved from the battlefields to the bedrooms. Arguing in today's parlance we are persecuted a population "upside" of monumental proportions.

But who could possibly have predicted that 50 years later we'll still be paying the price?

We are. "High-school students feeling effect of boomers' offspring," said a recent headline.

It gets better. "Designers will have to adjust as boomers reach middle age," "Middle-age boomers prefer brighter colors." Now, let's face it. With all the problems we've had with assorted Canadian minorities—not to mention minorities—there has never been an identifiable group, including the most strident Quebec separatists, who have tried to influence what we wear. Yet, not a word of protest. Canadian tolerance has no limits.

Back when the early Boomers hit public schools, our municipal taxes soared to accommodate them. We shuddered paid.

Then came high school, university and, yes, even welfare. Boomers, it seemed, were responsible for every painful increase in our overstretched society. They became a brand apart. A separate society—distinct, if you prefer—rising among us in a sort of non-environmental association manner.

Except that they began dictating our lifestyles. It was Boomers, you might recall, who were credited with leading Canadians into the joys of white wine. Yes, even Pernot, along with other fashionable tasteless designer drinks. And let's not forget carrot sticks and seven-grain loaves. Lord, what a treat!

When every journal in the country was exploiting over Quebec's demand for control over manpower training—going certain universities another opportunity to say "The CBC has learned!"—

there was a nearly ignored area, way back in the business section of a national newspaper, revealing that "Boomers threaten viability of Canada Pension Plan."

Seems there's going to be so damned many of them hitting retirement together, we're in danger of drying up the pension pot. Now, pray tell, which is more important, jurisdiction over manpower training or the systematic starving of the elderly? Well, as one American military publication put it so succinctly on another note, ten there's little doubt "the former was over attentioned."

If we may coin a phrase, some of our best friends are Boomers, but, frankly, it requires a constant effort to regard them as, well, normal Canadians—even if members of the same ethnic family.

It was only a few months ago that we were advised, courtesy of doctors from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, that Boomers are not as healthy as they should be. The headline in one newspaper informed us that "Boomers ignore lifestyle warnings."

"This is surprising and shocking," said one doctor, speaking for the foundation. "This is a generation that is bombarded with messages about how to eat better, exercise more and get your blood pressure checked."

Oh yes, the story offered us the apparently significant information that "Boomer" diets contain 38 per cent fat. No comparison with non-Boomers. Whether 38 per cent is low, high or stratospheric is irrelevant here. What's clear is that Boomers, once again, are being macroscoped as a special breed, sort of extraterrestrial freaks.

We have a headline telling us that "Boomers expected to exceed income production." And two weeks later, we read that "Boomers are love with all-terrain vehicles." Just why middle-aged individuals would go as a quiver, or all-terrain, bike is a mystery—although it might have something to do with that 38 per cent fat load.

Canadians who think we spend too much time placating a particular province, or ethnic group, should realize that the Boomer catering business is the real culprit here. Why, The Globe and Mail has even created a fictitious mutual fund to guide Boomers. With masterful understatement, the newspaper tells us that "like it or loathe it, boomership may become big business."

SADOMBOGGA/HIT! Bet you think we're making this up.

No, in our relentless efforts to unite all Canadians, we've obviously wasted millions on misguided causes, like action films, ethnic origin and language, while the divisive Boomers have, with unbridled abandon, created a two-Canada. And this being Canada, we can only suggest a rapid commission—five years and five million should do the trick!—on how Boomers can become assimilated Canadians. Otherwise, there will obviously be a torrent of demands to create a country named Boomerille—not to mention compelling arguments for compensation for postwar birthright trustees (PWBRT). Being Canadian we will, of course, pay up.

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